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## Israel may raid Syrian nerve gas plant

LONDON, Jan 10, (AP): Israel is considering an air attack against a secret Syrian installation manufacturing lethal nerve gas weapons which could be launched against Israel, the Sunday Times of London reported.

The existence of the chemical weapons factory in a remote desert area north of Damascus has been known to the Israelis and Americans for some time, the newspaper said in a front-page story attributed to unnamed defence sources in Tel Aviv.

"But a well-placed Israeli source said that anxiety had increased in the last few months as it became apparent that the Syrians have manufactured warheads to carry the gas," the newspaper said.

### Options

It said an Israeli defence official said Israel was discussing "at the highest level" three options to deal with the situation, including an attack on the plant using F-15 aircraft.

The other options are improving Israel's ability to resist a large-scale chemical assault and, "as a last resort," manufacturing its own nerve gas, the newspaper said.

"However, their 1981 attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor demonstrated a determination to destroy hostile targets at long range," it said, referring to Israel's attack on the Iraqi nuclear research centre at Tamuz, Iraq, in June 1981.

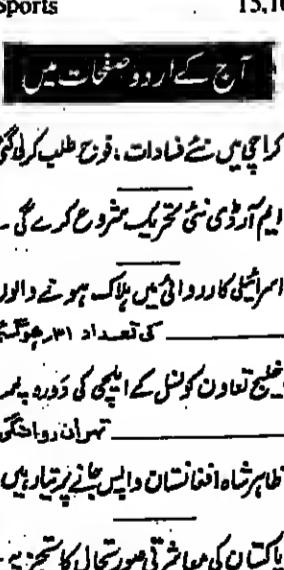
"Given Israel's past record of eliminating any threat to its national security, British and French experts believe that a strike is the favoured option."

The newspaper said one argument within the Israeli Defence Ministry in favour of a pre-emptive strike is that Israel regards nerve gas as almost a great threat as nuclear weapons.

"The debate now revolves around whether Israel should launch a pre-emptive strike in peace time, as it did with Iraq, or wait until war breaks out," it said.

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### WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be above normal with light to moderate easterly wind and some clouds will appear.
State of sea: moderate.
High water: 3.00 am, 5.00 pm
Low water: 10.00 am, 10.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.44 am
Sunset: 5.08 pm
Mean sea temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 18°C 64°F
Ahmad: 17°C 63°F
Falak: 16°C 61°F
Kuwait: 19°C 65°F
Ahmad: 18°C 64°F
Falak: 17°C 63°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 90 per cent
Ahmad: 96 per cent
Falak: 98 per cent
Minimum humidity expected:
Kuwait: 55 per cent
Ahmad: 94 per cent
Falak: 96 per cent
Minimum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 8°C 49°F
Ahmad: 11°C 52°F
Falak: 10°C 50°F

# ARAB TIMES

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 1988

JAMADIAL-AWWAL 21, 1408 AH

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## GCC states capable of defending themselves

# Gulf war nearing an end: Abdullah

By Ahmed Al Jarallah



Crown Prince Abdullah

THE Saudi Crown Prince and First Deputy Premier, Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz has said that he believes the Gulf war is nearing an end.

In an exclusive interview with the Arab Times he also said: "If it does not come to an end officially in 1988, it will at least be practically over."

In the interview given in Casablanca, Morocco, the Saudi Crown Prince expressed his opinion on the Iraq-Iran war as well as on other Arab issues.

Prince Abdullah said that Iran would not invade the Gulf states because "it is unable to do that."

### Incapable

He added that besides lacking in arms Iran is incapable of achieving a general military mobilisation.

He said: "When Iran calls upon its people to volunteer, it does not get the necessary response." He added that three years ago, when Iran called for volunteers, 400,000 responded, but two years ago, when they called for volunteers, only 200,000 responded. Last year,

The Saudi Crown Prince,

speaking about his visit to Cairo said that Egypt "is and will remain very important to Arabs, Islam and Muslims." He said that Saudi Arabia's relations with Egypt were not based on interests or governed by situations but were a "link of brotherhood."

He added: "I was very pleased with the atmosphere of frankness I found during my discussions with Egyptian officials." He commented further that he had been pleased with the reason and logic of the Egyptian leadership headed by President Hosni Mubarak.

In addition to Egypt, Abdullah also visited Iraq, Jordan, and Syria, after the Amman summit. Commenting on the tour, he said it was undertaken to follow up the implementation of the decisions of the summit which had succeeded in establishing that the Arab world would not pass through an atmosphere of disunity which had prevailed prior to the summit. He said: "All Arab countries must cooperate when necessary in order to respond to the challenges that face our nation."

The Saudi Crown Prince said that when he visited Damascus

and Baghdad, both the countries were determined to make him feel comfortable about the confidence and trust between them. He added that the explanation of both countries as to ways they are restoring their relations was logical. He said: "It is a grave mistake to even think that a country in the Arab world can live alone without cooperating with other Arab countries."

### Successful

Speaking about the summit, the Crown Prince said that the Amman summit was successful because of the objectivity of the participants in dealing with the issues. He added that they had avoided secondary issues to discuss the main concerns and the leaders heavily felt the international situations surrounding them and "responded to the ambitions of the Arab nation."

Prince Abdullah said that all these factors made the summit resolutions practical. He emphasised that frank meetings are the most efficient solution to present day problems and that this had been achieved at the Amman summit.

(Continued on Page 4)

## UK offers India advanced N-powered carrier

ABU DHABI, Jan 10, (AP): An 85-year-old merchant married two teenage girls simultaneously and consummated both marriages the same night, a newspaper reported today.

The merchant, Khasan Askour, from the Emirate of Sharjah had the two brides specially brought from India to avoid paying the high dowries commanded by local girls, said the newspaper Al Ittihad.

He decided to go ahead with the double wedding ceremony after doctors told him he was fit and virile enough despite his age.

The newspaper quoted Askour as saying he opted for a double wedding so that his two wives could keep each other company.

"One wife by herself at home could get bored," he said.

"But only a few days after the wedding the two began arguing and fighting each other," he complained.

Askour said he was unable to stop the squabbling "because I don't understand, much less speak Indian," the newspaper reported.

### Death sentence

DAMASCUS, (Reuter): South Yemen will not commute the death sentence passed on ousted President Ali Nasser Mohamed for treason last month, a Yemeni Minister said yesterday.

New Delhi purchases some of its arms from Moscow and Washington usually sets conditions on supplying India any equipment because it fears the Soviet Union will get access to the technology.

### Focused

PTI quoted Younger as saying talks had focused on India's plans to purchase 80 jet trainers, a sale for which the main contenders are the British-built Hawk and the French-made Alpha.

New Delhi has not yet reached a decision on the purchase but Younger said London was ready to supply India without any conditions its latest models of Jaguar and Sea Harrier jets, and hoped to participate in India's goal of building an entirely Indian-made fighter, dubbed the light combat aircraft (LCA).

India has vertical-takeoff Sea Harriers aboard its second aircraft carrier, the INS Virat, formerly the HMS Hermes that was combat-tested in the Falkland Islands before being refitted and delivered to India last October.

But Younger told the PTI he had offered more sophisticated versions of the planes, as well as Britain's latest "invincible" class design for India's planned third aircraft carrier.

He said London was prepared to sell a nuclear-powered carrier but Indian officials indicated they were more interested in constructing locally a smaller craft.

Doctors said 35-year-old Toukan Musabbah died at Gaza's Shifa hospital after being shot at his shop in the city's Shabaya district, where demonstrators burned tyres and stoned Israeli soldiers and vehicles. The Army said it was checking the report.

Earlier, the Army said 53-

## Tehran warned on Gulf aggression

# Mubarak asks Iran to accept peace

ABU DHABI, Jan 10, (AP): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak today urged Iran to accept peace with Iraq and warned that Egypt will not stand idle in the face of Iranian threats to Gulf Arab countries.

Mubarak made the comments today in Saudi Arabia before flying on to the United Arab Emirates, where his host, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, advocates dialogue rather than confrontation with Iran.

Mubarak will arrive in Kuwait tomorrow from UAE on his third leg of the current Gulf tour. He will be accompanied with a high level delegation and will have talks with HH the Amir on the current developments in the Gulf.

Mubarak refused to specify what actions Egypt would take. "To confront (Gulf) developments is an operation that cannot possibly be tackled with our cards exposed to the press. This is a dangerous war," he said.

Mubarak also defended Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, but accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of "backing down" on an Israeli commitment to explore an international peace conference for solving the Palestinian problem.

Mubarak's visit to Saudi Arabia is the first by an Egyptian ruler since the peace treaty with Israel led nearly all Arab countries to break relations with Cairo.

Most restored ties last month amid calls to unite Arab

countries against threats that the Iran-Iraq war might expand.

"I appeal to our Iranian brothers to heed the call to peace, because this (war) situation will definitely affect Iran and the Arabs as well," Mubarak told a news conference at the end of his two-day visit to Saudi Arabia, where he held talks with King Fahd.

"Security in this (Gulf) region is part of the security of Egypt," he said. "Egypt under no circumstances will relinquish the obligation to safeguard the security of its sister Arab powers."

### Stressed

Mubarak refused to specify what actions Egypt would take. "To confront (Gulf) developments is an operation that cannot possibly be tackled with our cards exposed to the press. This is a dangerous war," he said.

Shortly before Mubarak's jet landed in Abu Dhabi, a UAE envoy flew to Teheran with a message for Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati from his UAE counterpart, Rasheed Abdullah.

Before leaving Riyadh, Mubarak met US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, who was ending a week-long tour of Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in which he stressed American commitment to the

## UAE official in Iran talks

# Tehran ready to work with GCC on regional security

NICOSIA, Jan 10, (Agencies): Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told a visiting Arab official today that Tehran was prepared to cooperate with Gulf Arab states on regional security, Tehran Radio reported.

The Radio, said Velayati told UAE envoy Saeed Saif Saeed that the only path to true security and stability in the region was through cooperation between the Gulf Arabs and Iran.

It said Saeed delivered a message from UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdulla saying that cooperation between the GCC and Iran would curb the influence of foreign powers in the Gulf.

"We are ready for any sort of cooperation in this regard and we are optimistic about the positive results of such talks," Velayati told him.

### Agreed

Saeed's visit to Tehran was the first high-level contact between GCC states and Iran since GCC leaders agreed at summit meeting last month to open talks with Iran.

The GCC states generally support Iraq in its war with Iran.

The official Emirates news agency Wam said Abdullah's message also concerned the war, but Teheran Radio's report of the meeting between Velayati and

Mubarak

diplomatic sources said the two men discussed measures to improve Gulf Arab defences.

Mubarak is to tour the rest of the GCC countries on the trip, consolidating Cairo's restored relations.

Mubarak defended his ties with Israel, arguing, "God gave us brains to use ... Israel would love to see relations with it ruptured, so that it would have the United States all to itself."

Breaking the ties would not help settle the Palestinian problem, he said.

### Accused

The Egyptian leader said the current wave of Palestinian protests on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip should "ring the alarm bells to end the stalemate in the Palestinian case."

He accused Shamir of "Backing down" on the principle of an international peace conference

(Continued on Page 2)

Saeed did not mention the conflict, now in its eighth year.

Velayati's remarks followed two visits to Tehran by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharara Dec. 23 and 29. Sharara also visited Gulf capitals, including Riyadh, toward the end of December.

Middle East analysts speculated Syria was playing the role of honest broker in the region, a view that was strengthened when Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam accompanied Sharara on a swing through the Gulf last week.

Khaddam made stop-overs in Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE.

### Message

Sharara arrived in Amman today to brief Jordanian officials on Syria's mediation role to contain the Gulf war.

Sharara was carrying a letter from President Hafez Al Assad to King Hussein of Jordan, said the official Jordan News Agency, which reported Sharara's arrival. It did not disclose contents of the letter.

The news agency said the Syrian official will also discuss during his short working visit with Foreign Minister Taber Masri the latest developments in the region.

ISLAMABAD, (Reuter): Afghan authorities said yesterday a UN human rights envoy, Felix Ermacora, had visited the eastern garrison town of Khost, two weeks after it was relieved after a long rebel siege.

## Hasina vows

DHAKA, Jan 10, (AP): Sheikh Hasina, one of the chief opposition leaders, vowed today to stop the Feb 28 parliamentary elections called by President Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

## Awards for amusing typos

MOUNTAIN VIEW, California, Jan 10, (UPI): The Society for the Preservation

## INTERNATIONAL

**Controversy on state powers grows in Iran**

# Be strong, lawmakers urged

ATHENS, Jan 10. (UPI): A leading Iranian cleric was reported on the country's law-makers to "be strong," as signs emerged of a growing constitutional controversy over the powers of the government.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri as calling on the 12-man Council of Guardians of the constitution to "safeguard the constitution and the system," and to "be strong."

But President Ali Khamenei, who spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini publicly rebuked Thursday, praised the Imam (Khomeini) Saturday as a "unique and incomparable leader," IRNA said.

### Dignity

Montazeri is designated successor to Khomeini, and IRNA reported his remarks days after the Imam decreed that the Iranian government had "absolute power" and may legislate in some cases without conferring with Parliament.

Montazeri, speaking in Qom, stopped short of contradicting Khomeini directly, but urged Iran's Council of Guardians, a

sort of 12-man senate, to "be strong, while taking into account the needs of the revolution in different periods."

IRNA quoted him as saying "the dignity of the Guardians Council must be protected," and that "if a law is approved, other organs cannot adapt it to suit their own peculiar tastes," and "it must be obeyed by all."

The Qom cleric's remarks indirectly contradicted a decree Khomeini issued Dec. 25, laying down that the government had absolute power to legislate on matters concerning public utilities, banking, shipping and labour organisations.

Thursday, Khomeini publicly reprimanded Iran's elected President for having "misquoted and misinterpreted" the decree.

He said Khamenei "apparently" did not recognise that the government was "an institution ordained by the Almighty and founded with absolute power."

Teheran residents reached by telephone said Khomeini's decree caused some turmoil in the provinces, where small-town clerics raised dissenting voices against it.

Friday, a prominent member

of the Council of Guardians, speaking at prayer ceremonies in Tehran, ducked the constitutional controversy, but stated that the Majlis, or Iranian Parliament, played a "key role" in making laws.

### Unique

Khamenei Saturday described Khomeini as a unique and incomparable leader ... who spearheaded the move (against the Shah) and showed the way to the people."

Khamenei was speaking in Qom on the anniversary of the rioting on Jan. 9, 1978, which snowballed into a revolution a year later.

Regional analysts said there was no immediate evidence Khamenei was in the same position as former President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr, whom Khomeini ousted in 1981 by making a public attack on him.

But the analysts, who preferred to remain anonymous, said it did appear Khomeini's Dec. 25, decree was being questioned by clergymen who backed him through the revolution against the Shah in 1979, and

continued to do so over the past nine years.

By admonishing Khamenei, who spoke on the subject New Year's day in his capacity as Friday prayer leader, Khomeini appeared to be rapping the knuckles, too, of other prayer leaders who had spoken against the decree, regional analysts said.

### Attack

In Baghdad, a prominent Iranian opposition leader Friday blasted Khomeini for suggesting that "the powers of the government are unconditional and limitless."

Masoud Rajavi, chief of the outlawed Mojahedin Khalq organisation, said in a message addressed to "the people of Iran" that Khomeini's letter to Khamenei indicated his "regime has run aground and reached the end of the road."

Rajavi said Iran's ruling Ayatollah "had previously violated the most elemental judicial principles and ignored even his own judicial system," and "now he openly declares that the powers of government are unconditional and limitless."

## Kabul rulers to go into exile

# Zahir Shah may unite Afghans

LONDON, Jan 10. (AP): Afghanistan's deposed King Mohammad Zahir Shah may be recalled from his exile in Italy to unite quarreling factions in his homeland and form an interim government to end the war there, The Observer newspaper reported today.

The weekly said an agreement would lead to the withdrawal of the 120,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan and the Afghan communist leaders would go with them into exile.

The Observer said it interviewed the 73-year-old King at his villa near Rome and he said he was ready to return home on a peace mission without seeking to restore the monarchy.

"All I want is to restore the unity and prosperity of my country after this horrible war," he said.

It said the plan was also "well

King was quoted as saying.

The report said the peace plan was the idea of former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. It said Kissinger asked Occidental Oil magnate Armand Hammer — a friend of the King and associate of Soviet leaders for many years — to get approval of the plan from the King, from Pakistan President Zia-ul-Haq and Soviet foreign policy adviser Anatoly Dobrynin.

When Hammer did that successfully and finally put it to the State Department in Washington, Secretary of State George Shultz was "soon telling those concerned that an Afghan settlement might well be speeded by persuading Zahir to form an interim government as first among equals," the story said.

A French aid workers said today that government forces were pounding guerrilla positions day and night along the main Khost-Gardez highway, main prize in the fierce fighting over the past few weeks.

Received by the Pakistan-based Mujahedeen rebels who have been fighting the Soviet-backed communist government in their country for the past eight years,

King Zahir Shah was deposed in 1973 by a military coup led by his cousin and brother-in-law, Mohammad Daoud, who was killed in another coup in 1978, which led to the establishment of the pro-Soviet government.

Meanwhile, snow is hampering rebels in continued heavy fighting against Soviet and Afghan forces around the eastern town of Khost.

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Asked if he thought a similar "perestroika" might take place in Czechoslovakia, Dubcek said, "the past must be overcome with a clear vision of today's problems and the solutions to them."

These new tasks we gave ourselves in 1968, which we discussed publicly and then put into effect, could today be the easiest way to overcome divisions in our society and party."

Dubcek said "reform ideas" being put forward by the current leaders in Czechoslovakia "are words to be judged positively, but it is concrete action that will be decisive. There is a need for good medicine, not cosmetics."

He said he had "nothing substantial" to reproach himself for his actions leading to the Soviet-led operation to crush the "Prague spring" reform movement in August 1968.

### Dubcek: reforms

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### Comparison

"It is not possible to make a mechanical comparison between our 1968 and perestroika," he said. "But time has shown that here and there there are similarities between the fundamental sources of inspiration — not identity, but a notable similarity that links the ideas and

Dubcek expressed regret his reforms of the communist system in Czechoslovakia were not permitted to continue.

"I think a lot of time has been lost," he said. "I think of what could have been achieved in these

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## KUWAIT . . . GULF

### Zayed receives Gorbachev's message

ABU DHABI, Jan 10. (Kuna): President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan today received a message from Secretary General of the Soviet Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachev.

The message dealt with a number of regional developments, international issues and bilateral relations.

Gorbachev's personal emissary Karen Brutens, who is deputy director of international affairs department at the SCP Central Committee, conveyed the message during a meeting today with Sheikh Zayed.

Brutens has visited Syria, Egypt, and Kuwait in part of a tour aimed at relaying to Arab leaders the outcome of the Soviet-US summit in Washington last month.

### Kuwaiti envoy meets Syrian minister

DAMASCUS, Jan 10. (Kuna): Kuwait's Ambassador to Syria Ahmad Al Jasim, today conferred with Syrian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasser Shara.

Al Jasim told Kuna that the meeting focussed on the outcome of last week's Gulf-tour by Syrian Vice-President Abd Halim Khaddam and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara' particularly the visit to Kuwait.

### Medicine prizes

A KUWAITI daily reported that Kuwait's Public Health Ministry authorities are finalising the medications pricing law, in cooperation with officials from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The paper, quoting an official source at the ministry, said that the new law would be issued late this month or early next month and would unify medication prices in pharmacies and private hospitals.

Meanwhile, it was decided that the ministry's Medications Control and Registration Centre would begin upgrading its work within the next few weeks and that an extension would be built covering a 2000 square metre area.

### 17 accidents in Ahmadi

AHMADI suburb had the highest accident rate in Kuwait yesterday. Seventeen of the 23 accidents took place in Ahmadi. There were four accidents in Jabra and one each in Hawalli and the capital governorate.

Faiza Al Awadi, the head of



HH the Amir yesterday received the credentials of two new envoys to Kuwait. Picture (right) shows the Egyptian Ambassador Saeed Mohammad Rifast presenting his credentials. Left: the new Niger envoy. Both ceremonies were attended by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad.

### Kuwait-Sudan ties hailed

THE Sudanese ambassador to Kuwait Al Amine Mohammed Abdullah yesterday was quoted as hailing the Kuwaiti-Sudanese relations and said they will improve in the future.

In an interview published in Kuwaiti daily *Seyassat*, the ambassador praised Kuwait's moral and material support to Sudan which is a large recipient of Kuwaiti economic aid and is still receiving grants from Kuwait which has large investments there.

In response to a question on the Gulf conflict, he denounced the Iranian aggression on Kuwait, saying such acts will aggravate the situation.

He believed a peaceful settlement of the Gulf war would be possible within an Islamic framework rather than being "routine measures."

### Training course for students

DR NAJLA Nassar, the Director of the Training Department at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, opening the third training course for secondary students Saturday, organised to provide scientific knowledge among students and to encourage them to pursue scientific studies at the secondary or university level.

Faiza Al Awadi, the head of

### Amir receives credentials of new envoys

HH the Amir yesterday received credentials of Niger's Ambassador Adam Zadeh and Egypt's Ambassador Saeed Mohammad Rifast.

The ceremony at Seif Palace was attended by the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, the minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs, Diwan Undersecretary and Amiri Guard.

### Accomplishments of Amateur Motorists League

THE Secretary-General of the Kuwait Science Club Dawood Al Ahmad said that the club's league of amateur motorists had accomplished many things since its establishment and that the reduction in road accidents is one of their major achievements.

He added that the league organises motor races and provides members with technical and scientific information about mechanical work. He said that the league now has a permanent location in the Ahmadi area and that young people can now enjoy their hobby in the club and that car races are held in designated places instead of on public roads.

### Tunisian PM to visit UAE

ABU DHABI, Jan 10. (Kuna): Tunisian Prime Minister, Abdel-Hedi Bakouche, will shortly pay a visit to United Arab Emirates, it was officially announced here last night.

The visit which is due to start January 22, will be Bakouche's first trip abroad since he was appointed last November.

Bakouche is to brief the UAE officials on the new government policy and discuss bilateral relations as well as issues of mutual interests, the announcement said.

The Tunisian Charge d'Affaires here Adnan Al Damri yesterday discussed with UAE officials preparation for this coming visit.

### Appointment of deans

THE acting rector of Kuwait University, Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak, said that the university had not yet issued a decision to extend the appointment for faculty deans to the second term of this academic year. He added that the extension depends on the University Council which will meet after the holidays. He explained that the period for appointing deans was supposed to end at the end of this month, but this period can be extended until the end of the present academic year when the need arises and when decided by each faculty.

### UAE to attend League meeting

ABU DHABI, Jan 10. (Kuna): United Arab Emirates today announced that it will attend the extraordinary meeting of Arabs League Council at the level of foreign ministers.

The league's secretariat-general called for the meeting at the request of Libya to discuss the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Arab sources told Kuna that they expect the meeting to take place early next week in the Tunisian capital.

### Kuwait hosts Arab Girl Guides camp

KUWAIT is hosting the weekly-long Arab Girl Guides jamboree, beginning Jan 12. Arab Girl Guides are coming in large numbers to take part in the jamboree. Camps and other activities will be held for the participants.

The first delegation arrived on Friday from Egypt. Another group, led by Afaf Fathi, a representative of the Arabian Society for Guides, has also arrived. Guides from other Arab countries will come this week.

### Call to establish physiotherapy centres

A KUWAITI doctor has called for the establishment of physiotherapy centres in Kuwait. He also urged authorities to set up sanatoriums in some diseases.

Dr Waleed Al Basiri said "the absence of physiotherapy centre shows the lack of concern in official circles to this particular branch of medicine."

Rheumatism, renal failure and skin diseases can be treated beneficially if centres are set up near the coast, particularly at the Falilaka Island. The environment at the island was conducive for treatment for such diseases, he said.

Physiotherapy has not

### Civil aviation conference to discuss joint GCC bureau

THE 4th conference of the ministers responsible for civil aviation in the Gulf Cooperation Council states will discuss the setting up of a joint bureau of the GCC states in the International Organization of Civil Aviation (ICAO) headquarters in Montreal, Canada, a senior Kuwaiti official said yesterday.

State Minister for Services Affairs Issa Al Mazed said in an interview with Kuna, that the Bureau will brief the GCC states on the international organisation's activities and resolutions.

He said that the conference, which will be held January 13th in Riyadh, will also tackle the freedom of transportation of air carriers operating in the GCC

states, and the increase of flights between the GCC countries' major cities.

Regarding the ticket fares in Kuwait, Mazed said Kuwait is keen not to increase unnecessarily ticket fares, therefore, the proposed fare hike, which was to be implemented by the beginning of this month, has been suspended pending more coordination between all travel agencies and companies in Kuwait.

Mazed, meanwhile, said that he will head Kuwait's delegation to the fourth conference in Riyadh, noting that this meeting was scheduled to be held last November but was postponed due to the GCC secretariat's preoccupation with the eighth GCC summit, which was recently held in the Saudi capital.

Deputy director of book fairs department at the council Subail Al Ajmi said the Cairo fair, sponsored by the Egyptian Book Public Authority plays a prominent cultural role in spreading culture.

Ajmi said that the council will participate at the fair by two pavilions, the first for exhibiting books and the second for selling them.

Kuwait foundation for the advancement of science will participate in the fair within the framework of the council's pavilions.

The foundation will exhibit its 77 publications.

### Jha meets Al Ayoub

THE Foreign Ministry's Director of Protocol Ahmed Abdul Wabed Al Ayoub yesterday held a meeting with Indian Ambassador N.N. Jha. During the meeting, held at Al Ayoub's office, they discussed the forthcoming visits of ministries. They also exchanged views on protocol and administrative matters.

## ROYAL COURT

### Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received Sheikh Jaber Al Ali.

The Amir also received the head and members of the Palestinian studies institute.

Kuwait's Education Minister Anwar Abdulah Al Nouri attended the meeting.

## KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

### Amir's support to Palestinian uprising praised

TWO Kuwaiti dailies yesterday praised the support of HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Sabah to the Palestinian uprising, noting that the Amir's stance reflects the support of oil Kuwaiti people for their Palestinian brothers.

Daily Al Qabas commented that the Amir's call for a "historic awakening" toward the developments in occupied Palestine reflects Kuwait's stance toward the Arab problems.

The paper noted that the uprising is an expression of the Palestinians' hopelessness and disappointment toward Arab unfulfilled promises.

The newspaper hoped that the Amir's revelation of the Arab leaders' unfulfilled promises toward solving the Palestine cause, would make Arab leaders realize that the Arab people cannot be cheated by "bright promises and they are weary with talk."

Al Qabas reaffirmed the Amir's words that the time is ripe now for the Arabs to prove to the world the honesty of their promises by restoring the usurped rights of the Palestinians.

"The time is now opening for serious Arab work," the newspaper concluded.

Daily Al Watan said the Amir sincerely expressed what each Arab citizen, who cares for the Arab nation's causes, feels.

The daily emphasized the importance of the Kuwaiti ruler's call, which comes during this stage where the "oppressive powers" try to demolish the Arab people's legitimate rights and bury the Palestinian cause.

The newspaper recalled the Amir's call for the restoration of the usurped Palestine rights, pointing out that this is the stance of Kuwait's Amir, government and people of the Palestinian cause.

### S. Yemeni minister ends visit

MINISTER of State for Union Affairs of the Yemen Democratic People's Republic, Rashed Mohammed Thabit, yesterday hailed efforts and attention rendered by HH the Amir of Kuwait toward following up the latest developments of the uprising at the occupied territories.

In a pre-departure statement to Kuna yesterday, Thabit said that he relayed a message from Yemeni President Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas to the Amir on means to put an end to the repressive acts by Israeli authorities against Palestinians.

**Verdicts**

The Yemeni minister added that the visit was aimed at reviewing the situation in the Arabian Gulf and bilateral relations.

On the possibility of recon-

### 3 arrested for smuggling

THREE men were arrested in Kuwait for allegedly smuggling whisky and drugs into Kuwait.

They were taken into custody while trying to bring in 570 whisky bottles and 1,139 drug pills. They were identified as Mosa J. and Habib A., both Iraqis and Moss D., a non-Kuwaiti.

They have been kept in custody pending investigation.

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Sultan Qaboos of Oman sits at his desk (left) during the opening session of the parliament in Muscat on Saturday. (Reuter wirephoto)

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## Saudi economy in very good shape

(Continued from Page 1)

Prince Abdullah indicated that further conferences should be held annually to discuss Arab concerns in a direct way. He said: "Before the Amman summit we were feeling that the disagreement in the Arab world had lowered Arab dignity and distorted our image in the world." He added that this made the Arab world a target for those with ambitions in the region such as Israel and Iran.

### Trip

The Crown Prince commented on his trip to America and the attitude toward Arab issues, saying: "Israel is active there with well-known methods." He added that if only one cent from each barrel of oil produced in the Arab world was allocated for the purpose of making the world understand Arab causes, miracles could happen even within five to 10 years. He elaborated, saying: "If this sum is provided and supervised by well-qualified Arab youth, it will create the real channel through which we will be able to help decision-makers in the world to be just in dealing with Arab causes."

Abdullah said that crying, criticising and requesting will lead to nothing. "I personally arrived at other convictions of what the Arab world should do to defeat those forces working to distort the Arab image in the world," he said.

Regarding the eighth GCC summit conference in Riyadh, he said that the same frankness which prevailed at the Amman summit was present at the



**Prince Abdullah**

Riyadh summit. He said that the success of the GCC conference was due to the fact that it was held amid conditions that required decisive, collective and strong solutions in order for "our patience not to be interpreted as weakness."

Concerning the establishment of links among the GCC people, Prince Abdullah said that the GCC states had made good progress in this area, but he added: "The people demand more from us and there is no harm in this for it is the demand

of the people and it will one day be achieved."

Moving to matters of local economic concern, Abdullah said that the Saudi economy was in "very good shape." He added: "We have overcome some difficulties, the most important of which is the adaptation of the people to the new expenditure policy."

He explained that the people in the past were accustomed to huge expenditures, which, he said, were all right when huge revenues were available. He added that

during the past three years people have begun to adapt to the reasonable expenditure rates.

### Trend

He said that last year witnessed a boost in the Saudi economy and that this trend was expected to continue this year. He explained that Saudi Arabia was not an oil country only and that studies indicate that other mineral resources such as gold, silver, copper and uranium will produce revenues equal to that of oil.

He said that a production company will be established soon, in partnership with the Saudi government and a number of American companies will be given concession rights to operate in a 1,600 square kilometre area.

"Shares will be offered in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf," Prince Abdullah said, "and experts estimate that its revenues may be equal to that of oil."

He emphasised that the Saudi economy stands on the same foundation as any other well-established economy: agriculture, industry and trade.

He said that in the agricultural field, Saudi Arabia has become an exporting country.

He added that the Saudi industrial base was expanding and that commercially they have an internal market with a huge purchasing power.

Finally, the Crown Prince said that under the direction of King Fahd, Saudi Arabia's economy is well established and that many countries deal with them in confidence because of the strength of the economy.



A farewell reception was held for the outgoing Tunisian Ambassador at the Foreign Ministry. The ambassador (left) is receiving a guest. A large number of diplomats and officials attended.

## Cabinet welcomes Mubarak's visit

KUWAIT yesterday welcomed the visit to the country today by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as part of his current tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

A cabinet statement issued yesterday said President Mubarak's visit comes in the context of continuous consultations among brothers in respect of all that will realise supreme national interests.

Following a regular cabinet session yesterday, under the chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, the government's spokesman stated that the council took note of the correspondence exchanged between HH the Amir and King Hassan of Morocco dwelling on the Al Quds (Jerusalem) Committee's meeting recently chaired by the Moroccan monarch.

"The Amir of Kuwait," said the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Al Rashed, "wished in his message success for the committee's meetings, which manifest the common feeling of the importance of taking Muslim action at this stage where our Arab Palestinian people in the occupied lands are subjected to brutal crimes at the hands of

Zionist occupation forces."

The Council of Ministers, according to the official, was also informed of the message received by the Amir from PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in which the latter pledged determination of the Palestinian people to continue struggle by all means and capabilities until attainment of their just goals and appreciated Kuwait's consistent stance and support of the Palestinian cause.

The Premier reported on the short visit paid last Wednesday to Kuwait by Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara during which they conveyed a message to the Amir from Syrian President Hafez Assad. Rashed said, adding that the council was kept informed on context of talks held with the Syrian delegation which focused on the overall Arab situation and bilateral ties.

Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah reported to the council on the visit by US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci and the talks he had which centred on developments in the Arab Gulf region, exerted efforts to implement the world resolution for halting the Iraq-Iran war and support of the Palestinian people's struggle to restore their legitimate rights as well as reviewing the present cordial relations between the two friendly countries.

Rashed said the cabinet session also took note of the results of the recent Anman meeting held by the Arab economic eight-man committee assigned to study performance of Arab financial institutions and lending agencies as given by Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi and outcome of the latter's visit to Egypt aimed at strengthening economic exchange and investment cooperation.

The minister of state indicated that the cabinet session heard a report by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sahab Al Ahmed on results of his meeting here last week with Karen Brudens, deputy head of the foreign relations bureau of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee.

Brudens has handed over a message to the Amir from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev

detailing results of the recent US-Soviet summit held in Washington.

Sheikh Sabah, the official added, and Brudens' talks tackled developments in the Arab areas and the Soviet Union's stance represented by its relentless drive to stop the Iraq-Iran war and support of the Palestinian people's struggle to restore their legitimate rights as well as reviewing the present cordial relations between the two friendly countries.

Ships of the US Central Command's joint task force, Middle East, escorted the Middletown and the Chesapeake City on the 600-mile (1,000 kms) trip through the Gulf that ended about 1430 GMT.

The convoy, which began Jan 7 in the Gulf of Oman, included the guided-missile frigates USS Elrod and USS McClusky. The transit proceeded through the Gulf unevenly, with no unusual air or naval activity reported, the Pentagon said.

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## EVENTS

## Review of Kaash

**Bhatt's self-defeating endeavour**

By Subhash K. Jha

MAHESH BHATT will never make *Sarash* again. He should stop trying, though. The almost pathological obsession with death and its finality has become major hurdle to the way of plenary self-expression. Bhatt must snap out of this obsession -- the desire to make every film mirror his own soul -- before it snaps him off from the orbit of artistry.

With *Kaash*, viewers hoped to see Bhatt achieve a synthesis of the popular and the intellectual. Films like *Arth*, *Sarash* and *Janam* carried the flagrant imprint of Bhatt's lacerated soul. With *Naam* he self-consciously veered to the other extreme with a popular entertainer which was over-rated by the director's admirers in the press.

*Kaash* compromises between the two extremes. An uneasy and ultimately unsuccessful compromise. (The experimental phase in Bhatt's career -- films like *Manzilein Aur Bhi Huin*, *Vishwasgat* and *Lahor Ke Do Rang* have been deliberately ignored.)

For *Arth*, Bhatt turned in his own troubled marriage for inspiration. In *Kaash* he borrows from his leading lady Dimple's tempestuous past and her relationship with Rajesh Khanna. Bhatt can deny it but the virulent relationship between Pooja and the fading superstar Ritesh in *Kaash* is patterned on Dimple and Rajesh Khanna's troubled past.

## Situations

Must Bhatt invariably seek a structural foundation from real-life incidents? Can't he make a film about situations he is familiar with? Of course, there is nothing morally wrong in such derived dramatisations, as long as they are honest in their intent. *Kaash* is so reality an untruthful film. It lies about all the things which we have been asked to believe through Bhatt's films. Undeniably, the man-woman relationship has been tackled with merciless Maheshesque irony.

Indeed, the first half of *Kaash* has unforgettable moments enacted finely by the two lead players. The screen crackles with the tension between the frustrated alcoholic and his hard-to-please wife, as their young son Romi watches the violence helplessly.

## Rigidity

But *Kaash* boorishly lingers by cheating on fundamental issues in the script. It believes -- and wants us to believe -- superstars are made and unmade overnight -- with just one film. It is preposterous to have the plot on the presumption that one unsuccessful production can throw a superstar in the brink of bankruptcy and beyond, and that he would be abandoned by the entire industry for committing the sin of failure. For example *Jeetendra* produced one of the most crushing failures in the history of Indian cinema -- *Deedar-e-Yaar* -- and bounced back on the hunchancy of goodwill and luck. Rajesh Khanna is the classic example of an ex-superstar. As we all know, he is still treated like a king. Surprisingly Bhatt, who is so much a part of the mainstream industry, has chosen to be so hypocritical about its depiction! Even dramatic license has its limits, after which it begins to look grotesque, especially in a film ostensibly about "real people."

From this starting point of deceitful dramatisation, *Kaash*

Dimple Kapadia and Jackie Shroff in *Kaash*.

almost effortlessly falls deeper and deeper into the quagmire of misrepresentations.

Bhatt glibly flaunts his many rigid attitudes about love and life. One such concern is about the status of the working woman in the Indian society; the single-divorcee is easy prey. Anupam Kher says as much when Pooja (Dimple Kapadia) is attacked by a drunken lecher and the Gallahad with a weird wig rushes to his rescue -- not very dramatic! Similarly, Pooja in *Arth* was attacked when she moves out of her husband's home. (Significantly, there was no rescue effort in *Arth*.)

## Amusing

The director is forever absorbed in his egotistic world of ruptured alliances and cruel deaths. The world according to Bhatt is an exceptionally unthinking place where sensitive souls are destined to suffer. Alok and Pooja perform highly dramatic sequences which don't work. One is the scene in which Alok informs Pooja about Romi's illness, and the other is when Alok raises the topic of their marriage while Romi is dying. Both are extraordinarily intense situations demanding hysteria. Pooja's response, though starkly genuine, does not coordinate with the mood of the situation. They are bungled incompetent scenes.

The character of Ritesh must pointedly reveals the director's machochism. The manner in which Ritesh demeans himself once the slide downhill begins is not at amusing. The tendency is clearly self-destructive driving Ritesh headlong into the disaster zone.

Ritesh becomes an alcoholic and loses the woman he loves along with his stardom. Ultimately, nature conspires in snatching his dearly loved son. Agreed, failure comes in hunches. But Ritesh isn't the average man-in-the-dumps. He is the director's bleeding soul in person. The volatile Bhatt has confessed his guilt for being a part of the synthetic cinema world. Well, Ritesh is the fading star, being punished for being successful. The script repeatedly invents situations to humiliate the character. Examples abound in *Kaash* like Ritesh being insulted by the sour-faced star (Dilip Tahil) for asking the pitance. Then there is a horrendous party scene wherein Ritesh gatecrashes, with son in tow, steals money and is assaulted. Compare this vulpine sequence with the party scene in *Arth*. In *Kaash*, Bhatt seems to parody his own style in scene after scene. That is when the film isn't seeking inspiration from Hollywood tear-jerkers about the father-son relationship like Kramer vs Kramer and The Champ.

## Climax

Before the interval *Kaash* is enormously rewarding viewing. There is taut tension in the initial scenes, endowing the proceedings with immense vitality. Once the son's illness is disclosed, the film begins to hem and haw, with tears and chuckles uneasily aligned with metaphysical ideas. The climax is incredibly lax and the death scene -- ludicrous? Bhatt seems to become wary of the melodrama after finding the perfect formula for a tearjerking sequence (a terminally ill child). Therefore, Bhatt tempered the naked sentimentalism with a mantle of existentialism. This superficiality is wonderfully evident in *Saarthi*. In *Kaash* it looks silly and awkward, especially when it is punctuated by heavy hip-wriggling in hill stations. One further misgiving remains: would any father tell his child he is dying, no matter how mature the son might be? Would any child accept it so stoically, as though he knew the meaning of death already? Romi's petulance and frustration as the day approaches is

much more credible: "Why can't you save me if you really love me?" How does any parent answer that?

The performances by the lead players -- Jackie Shroff and Dimple Kapadia -- redeem *Kaash*. Dimple's identification with her role seems near-perfect. She gives her best to the role, and then a little more. In the emotional scenes, she works herself into a frightening frenzy, gulping for air as she chokes on her sputum. But the show belongs to Jackie Shroff. Shroff gives a bewitching blend of vulnerability, vigour and violence to the role. For all his frailties, the character of Ritesh is the film's greatest strength. Inspite of his unheroic stature, the degradations of the script, there is a core of inearuptibility and innocence in the character, brilliantly portrayed by Shroff.

## Fantasy

*Kaash* vacillates between a child-like innocence and an ostentatious worldly wisdom. On the one hand there is the Allaudin sequence signifying pure fantasy; on the other is the much publicised love scene between the lead pair, trying frantically to win the crowds. Such compromise alloys the original intent of the script. But as in all Mahesh Bhatt films, there are sequences which leave a lasting impression. At the end, after the tragedy, Pooja wishes to return to Ritesh. One can understand the uncontrollable desire to be near the only person who can truly share the grief. But the manner in which she pleads for "another chance" makes you think of the Pooja who became totally independent in the course of the film. Ponja, like the film, doesn't grow at all. She ruins the reunion by saying "Give me another Romi." This one line sums the lip-smacking sentimentality. *Kaash* is a dangerously self-defeating endeavour, trapped between veracity and pretensions. It leaves you with feelings not distinct from irritation. Yet, you'll remember Jackie Shroff's performance and flashes of brilliance shown by Dimple in some parts of the film.

Shekhar Azmi and Kulbhushan Kharbanda in *Arth*.

326045, 7am to 3pm.

## Piano Concert

German pianist Wolfram Lorenzen will give a recital on Jan 19 (8pm) in the Grand Ballroom of the Kuwait Hilton. He will play works by Ravel, Schumann, Liszt and Chopin. For further details contact the hotel.

## Konkan Drama

The New G.O.A. presents Freddy J. D'Costa's play *Khata Pita Dev Dua* on Jan 14 (8pm), Jan 15 (3pm) and 16 (4pm). The play features a ful-filled world of fantasy: a hilarious soccer game where crocodiles, elephants and other animals kick up a storm; brass beds fly, nightgowns dance and witches brooms sweep away young and old alike. It lasts 90 minutes. Admission is free but reservations must be made. Tel: 2515512; 2533204.

## Ladies Tee Party

A saree fashion show will be held at the International Ladies Tea Party meeting on Jan 20, Wednesday, from 4.30 pm at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel. For details call 5317390.

## KLT

Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi, are looking for pianists for a summer musical coming up in March. For further details call 3985246.

## SOCIAL

## Sargam Music Show

Sargam, a local group, will hold a music show at Messiah Beach Hotel at 6.30 pm on Feb 3. A selection of popular Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi and English songs will be presented. Entertainment also includes fire dance, lava dance and a magic show. For details phone

Kuwait Cultural Centre  
Dancerise classes will be held shortly. For further details phone 2428362.

## HOTELS

## At the Ramada Al Salam

All-day dining at El Bandar Coffee Shop. Grilled specialities featured at the Grill Garden. Snacks and cocktails offered at the Lobby Lounge with live entertainment. Every Thursday night Le Mirage features barbecue with live music.

## At the Continental

Gardenia offers food and beverage service on the Terrace. Daily dinner buffet and on Fridays, lunch buffet with charcoal grilled specialities. Darbar features daily lunch buffet and a la carte for dinner.

## At Messini Beach

Al Mubarakiah features special lunch and dinner buffets. Open 24 hours.

## At the Meridien

Jumbo shrimp promotion in La Brasserie, the Versailles and Oasis Restaurant. The promotion continues until January 14.

## At the Holiday Inn

Businessman's lunch buffet, featuring three main course dishes, salads and sweets buffet; tea/coffee, offered daily at Al Dana Restaurant.

## At the Hilton

La Palma features Oriental, Continental and International cuisine as well as a large array of sweets and desserts for lunch and dinner buffet. Falakia on the 19th floor features a specialty menu for lunch and dinner.

## At the Sheraton

Dine in the Huai Room with live music by the gypsy band. For lunch, Hunt Room offers a la carte. Italian cuisine featured for dinner in the Ricardo Restaurant.

## At the Continental

Gardenia offers food and beverage service on the Terrace. Daily dinner buffet and on Fridays, lunch buffet with charcoal grilled specialities. Darbar features daily lunch buffet and a la carte for dinner.

## At the Sheraton

Jumbo shrimp promotion in La Brasserie, the Versailles and Oasis Restaurant. The promotion continues until January 14.

## TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

## KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News Via Satellite
- 3.30 Hakim Al Aqaz: cartoon serial
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.45 La Ilaha Illallah: historical serial featuring Yusuf Shabaa, Hata Fakher, Ragda
- 5.30 Mama Anisa and Children
- 6.00 Dirasat Taqniyah: Technological Studies
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.05 Weekend: repeat
- 7.35 Quran and Science: hosted by Dr Ahmad Shawki Ibrahim
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Al Anzaar: daily Arabic serial
- 10.50 Daeraat Al Ahdath: "Circle of Events". A weekly talk show on topical subjects. Tonight, a look at rehabilitation of disabled people. Guests are Abdul Rahman Salem Al Atiqi; Esa Yassin; Mohammad Hamad Al Humaidi.
- 11.45 News Summary
- 11.50 World News Via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran, Closedown

A still from *A Year in the Life*, tonight's mini-series at 10.30 pm on KTV 2.

## KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Yogis Treasure Hunt: cartoons
- 6.30 The Animal Express: a look at giraffes and monkeys. Guest star is Patrick Duffy.
- 7.00 Roaring Report: weekly roundup of world news, presented by KTV.
- 7.30 Chintz: two couples fight over a piece of furniture.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 The Law and Harry MacGrav: the story of a female lawyer and a private eye who work together to fight crime.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

## RADIO PROGRAMMES

## BBC World Services

- 30 The Voyage Chart Show
- 1100 World News
- 09 News from Britain
- 15 Health Matters
- 30 Album
- 1200 Radio Newswatch
- 15 4th and 11th My Music: 18th and 25th Just A Minute
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary
- 45 First Recordings of British Symphonies
- 0200 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Anything Goes
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Anything Goes
- 0400 Newsdesk
- 30 Five William Stories
- 45 Reflections
- 05 Waveguide
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary
- 30 4th and 11th The Legacy of the Sixties: 18th and 25th Australia 200 Years On
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary
- 30 4th and 11th The Legacy of the Sixties: 18th and 25th Australia 200 Years On
- 0800 World News
- 09 Reflections
- 15 Five William Stories
- 30 Anything Goes
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Good Books
- 3 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
- 45 Poet's Choice
- 1000 News Summary followed by 4th and 11th The Legacy of the Sixties: 18th and 25th Australia 200 Years On
- 2100 News Summary followed by Network UK
- 09 Reflections
- 15 Five William Stories
- 30 Anything Goes
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Good Books
- 3 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
- 45 Poet's Choice
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- 2100

## EDITORIALS

## ARAB TIMES

## Thought for today

I AM always ready to learn, but I do not always like to be taught—Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965).

## OPINION

### Welcome Mubarak

WE, in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, welcome the visit of the Arab leader of Egypt, and while welcoming him, we remember that while we were tough against his country and his people, he simply prayed to God to guide the Arab nations. They were guided and realised that the whole world wants them disunited in order to dominate them and exploit their wealth and resources. The world wanted us, the Arabs, to remain disunited because they knew that our solidarity would be dangerous.

Welcome, is the word that reflects the feelings of all in this region because they realise that Egypt, with its 7,000-year-old history, remains the Egypt they know, and with its people, leadership and geographic significance, speaks for itself.

If leaders are the ones who create the international and regional relations for their countries, President Hosni Mubarak has done for Egypt what many leaders have failed to do for their countries. The leadership of Mubarak created for Egypt a power that is greatly felt in the international arena because of its true commitment to and respect for international and regional agreements and by recognising that political affairs are not practised through personal taste but through logic and reason.

Egypt has succeeded in restoring political and economic trust and is ready to harvest the fruit yielded by President Hosni Mubarak's principles. He is welcomed now by the people of the Gulf and the peninsula as a leader of truth and purity.

This leadership of Mubarak took Egypt away from the attraction of personal interests and is a leadership that feels for all of the people. It is a leadership that does not fear freedom in Egypt while at the same time does not fear stopping who exploits this freedom to harm others.

The current tour of President Mubarak to the Gulf and peninsula will give him the chance to see how true leaders are welcomed and supported and loved by these people, and when he returns to Egypt he will see how the Egypt of Mubarak has restored confidence in the Arab world.

The period of 30 years, when relations between Egypt and this region were unstable, was characterised by recognition of Egypt by the people of this region without their rulers. Now the relations are complete, both the people and rulers hold the banner of respect for Egypt under the leadership of Mubarak.

A warm welcome for President Mubarak, who succeeded in doing what others had failed; restoring relations with the world and regaining its past glory.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

## New push to end war in Afghanistan

By Hugh Bain

**N**EW DELHI, (Reuters): With a senior Soviet Minister in Kabul last week, a US mission in Islamabad, the United Nations mediator due shortly in both capitals and peace talks imminent in Geneva, a new push to end the Afghan war appears to be under way.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin said in New Delhi last week the round of Geneva talks expected next month could be the last—and could succeed.

And US analysts said the Reagan administration had no interest in prolonging the nine-year Afghan war.

"Definitely not," Robert Neumann, former US Ambassador to Kabul, said in Washington. "Because this is a difficult problem for Pakistan, in which we have a very important position."

Pakistan, unwilling host to up to five million Afghan refugees and the main refuge for the guerrillas fighting the Moscow-backed government in Kabul, has its own internal and external pressures and is equally eager to end the war.

So, says Western diplomats in Moscow, is the Soviet leadership.

### War-weariness

The diplomats said there was increasing evidence of war-weariness among Soviet foreign policy makers and of tension between Moscow and President Najibullah in Kabul.

The timetable for pulling back the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops is no longer the major issue.

The rebels want the troops out in eight months, and Adamishin said in New Delhi the Soviet Union had "taken a strong decision to withdraw troops from Afghanistan in 12 months—it could even be earlier."

Officially, Moscow says the continued supply of US arms to the rebels via Pakistan is the highest remaining barrier to peace.

But Western diplomats say the question is what kind of a government the departing troops will leave behind them.

The Soviet Union wants to

ensure a stable and friendly government on its southern flank. The Kremlin knows Najibullah is highly unpopular and totally unacceptable to the rebels, but it has no candidate to replace him.

Any government led by the former secret police chief or his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PPDA) could collapse within weeks, said analysts in Washington and New Delhi.

Such a debacle would be seen as an unacceptable defeat for the Soviet Army and would raise the prospect of a civil war and a hostile government on its doorstep, they added.

### Curse

Former Ambassador Neumann said Moscow had to avoid giving the impression to other communist governments that it was prepared to let a communist-led regime go down the drain.

"The Soviets face the curse of the weak ally," commented one diplomat in Moscow.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev gained a clearer idea of US views on Afghanistan at his December meeting with President Reagan, but made no progress towards a settlement.

Their summit followed a UN General Assembly resolution in November which despite fervent Soviet lobbying condemned the presence of foreign troops by a record 104 votes, and a call for withdrawal from the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

Moscow replied with an offensive on both the military and diplomatic fronts.

Its troops made a successful push last month to break the perennial rebel siege of the eastern town of Khost.

Analysts in Pakistan say the victory had little strategic significance, but the Soviet media have given it prominence to demonstrate both the value of Soviet support and the might of the Afghan armed forces.

While his deputy visited New Delhi, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was in Kabul on an unheralded "working visit", which Moscow analysts see as indicating the importance of the impending Geneva talks.

"They feel there is a financial imbalance and they want it

## Civilian governments in Latin America and the Caribbean took hard knocks from the military, billionaire drug lords and extremist guerrillas

## Assault on democracy

By Bernd Debusman

**M**EXICO City, (Reuters): In Haiti, roving gangs of soldiers and paramilitary thugs go on a killing spree to break up the first democratic elections in 30 years. Mission accomplished: the ballot is postponed.

In Ecuador, Air Force commandos seize the President, put a gun at his head and demand the release of a dissident officer awaiting trial for mutiny. Request granted.

In Argentina, infantry units rebel, demanding an end to human rights trials and the dismissal of the Army chief of staff. He steps down, the government limps on.

In Colombia, professional killers murder every judge who extradites a cocaine trafficker to the United States. The supreme court annuls the US-Colombian Extradition Treaty.

In Peru, a court issues orders to suspend the planned nationalisation of banks. The government uses tanks, tear gas and paramilitary police to take over the banks by force.

Over the past year, democracy took hard knocks in the Caribbean and Latin America, put to the test by the military, millionaire drug lords, extremist guerrillas—and civilian politicians who set their own rules for the democratic game.

"As we have seen again in 1987, there are limits to the full exercise of parliamentary democracy in a region where

authoritarian leadership has long traditions," said a European diplomat and specialist on Latin Affairs.

Since 1979, nine countries in the region have switched from military dictatorships to democracy: Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Uruguay and Brazil. Panama adopted the trappings of democracy but effectively remained under military rule.

**G**ruesome

In Nicaragua and Haiti, dictators were toppled but promises of freedom remained unfulfilled.

Haiti provided a gruesome case in point. Three decades of Duvalier family rule ended in February, 1986, when popular protest forced Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier to flee.

His military successor, General Henri Namphy, promised free elections by November 1987. But he did not move decisively against Duvalier loyalists in the Army or members of the dictator's secret police, the Tontons Macoute.

On election day, November 29, 1987, Army elements and gunmen in civilian clothes joined an orgy of violence against Haitians queuing to cast their votes. At least 37 died, some hacked to pieces by machete, and elections were postponed.

While black, Creole-speaking Haitians are not typical of Latin America, military forces in much of the region share values which pose a latent threat to the fledgling democracies.

With few exceptions, the de-

ply conservative, fiercely anti-communist and staunchly nationalist Latin American military men deny the repression, torture and killing under military-run governments was wrong.

Many officers regard themselves as saviors of their nations from the evils of communism and say that the ends justified whatever means they employed.

"In Argentina, as elsewhere in Latin America, the armed forces remain convinced they were right," said Emilia Mignone, a prominent Buenos Aires lawyer and expert on the excesses of the "dirty war" against Argentines leftists.

"The military have not changed with the advent of democracy. They are the same men, with the same ideas," he added.

It was resentment over what they considered unfair treatment by President Raul Alfonsin's government which caused military revolts over Easter 1987.

The uprisings led to legislative limits on trials of military men involved in the killing of some 9,000 people during the dirty war.

Eight months after the revolt, the Argentine Navy threatened another rebellion unless Alfonsin agreed to the promotion of an officer accused of human rights abuses. The officer, Alfredo Astiz, was duly promoted.

Elsewhere in Latin America, elected leaders made concessions to the armed forces in Guatemala, El Salvador, Uruguay and Peru, where 4,000



People were massacred at many voting centres in Haiti to break up the first democratic elections in 30 years. (Reuter wirephoto)

squads who are systematically murdering leftists.

The most prominent victim in 1987 was Jaime Pardo Leal, leader of the Patriotic Union (UP). He was the latest of some 500 UP activists murdered since the party was formed in 1985.

Even where established traditions of freedom exist, democracy is being put to tough tests.

Colombia, for instance, has enjoyed democratic government through most of this century. Its media are widely considered the best in the region. Parliamentary life is vibrant.

Yet Colombian democracy is under immense strain, under assault from ruthless drug lords, and more than 50 judges. As far as drug-related crime is concerned, Colombia's justice system has been intimidated to the point

of paralysis.

On Dec 30, a Bogota judge released Jorge Luis Ochoa. He walked to freedom a month after Colombian drug lords threatened a "blood bath" if he were banded to the United States, which has offered a \$500,000 reward for his capture.

Political killings are only one ingredient in widespread violence which claimed around 11,000 victims in 1986.

### Anarchy

Over the past three years,

assassins paid by cocaine traffickers killed a justice minister

and more than 50 judges. As far

as drug-related crime is concerned, Colombia's justice system has been intimidated to the point

of paralysis.

The most prominent victim in 1987 was Jaime Pardo Leal, leader of the Patriotic Union (UP). He was the latest of some 500 UP activists murdered since the party was formed in 1985.

Political killings are only one ingredient in widespread violence which claimed around 11,000 victims in 1986.

Where criminals can enforce the law of the jungle and defy the state, you are closer to anarchy than to democracy, one prominent judge commented.

## Peacemaker's image is more appealing than that of Rambo

By Helen Thomas

**W**ASHINGTON, (UPI): The most dramatic year of Ronald Reagan's Presidency began in the depths of the Iran-Contra scandal and culminated at the heights of a summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Such a conference would end the Americans' role as the exclusive MidEast peace broker and formally usher the Soviets into the centre of the region's political arena.

The proposed international naval force also would insert the Soviets into what has until now been a strictly US-led Western role in the Gulf.

But still unclear is how far the Gulf Arabs are prepared to go in seeking wider Soviet involvement in the region.

### Seriously

Although the Arabs would prefer a US presence in the Gulf, there are reservations because of Washington's staunch support for Israel.

The US State Department said on Dec 28 it was willing to study, without commitment, a Soviet proposal for a US naval force in the Gulf if the Security Council approved an arms embargo against Iran.

"The idea of an international naval force in the Gulf is being viewed seriously, because the US role was not sufficient to deter Iran," said a well-placed Gulf shipping executive, who insisted on anonymity.

"The Americans have been protecting only ships that fly the US flag, leaving the Iranians to raid ships of other nationalities and fire missiles at Kuwait's oil facilities," the sources said.

Reagan may have found out relatively that the image of peacemaker is even more appealing to a weary world than that of a rampaging Rambo. Clearly he has toned down his high noon profile to reach an accommodation with Moscow.

### Catalyst

Domestic problems, particularly a shaky economy, may have been one of the catalysts to bring about the new INF treaty and a general backing off from a confrontational climate.

When the aftershow wears off, both leaders may find themselves at odds on some of the real issues separating capitalism from communism. And Reagan has lost no opportunity to stress that he has not changed his view that the Soviet Union is still an "evil empire."

But the President, who has proclaimed so often, "I am a conservative," ran into a fusillade from his favourite constituents, those on his party's right, who accused him of appeasement and being a pawn of Gorbachev.

The Tower commission was formed and later reported that Reagan's hands off management style had contributed to the scandal. A congressional committee, after hearing North and Poindexter admit that they had lied, deceived Congress, altered reports and shredded and burned official documents, said that Reagan had failed to "faithfully execute the laws of the land" and if he didn't know what was going on, he should have.

Reagan's reaction, according to White House chief of staff Howard Baker, was that he "really, really, felt put upon."

The president's loose style and uncertain trumpet, detachment from responsibility has become more and more apparent in his waning days.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

1569—First lottery in England is drawn in St Paul's Cathedral under Queen Elizabeth I's patronage.

1681—Brandenburg and France sign defence alliance.

1753—Spain's King Ferdinand VI signs concordat with Pope Benedict XIV.

1814—Joachim Murat, King of Naples, deserts Napoleon Bonaparte and joins allies.

1887—Otto von Bismarck advocates larger German Army.

1919—Romania annexes Transylvania.

1942—Japanese take Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, in World War II.

1943—Britain and United States relinquish extraterritorial rights in China.

1945—Truce is declared in Greek Civil War.

1962—Avalanche buries village in the Andes in Peru, and 3,000 people are reported killed.

1970—In Nigeria, 32-month-old secessionist Biafran regime collapses under onslaughts by Nigerian control government.

1972—New state of Bangladesh is recognised by East Germany.

1975—Soviets launch manned spaceship to rendezvous with space laboratory sent into orbit around the earth.

1976—President Rodriguez Lara of Ecuador is ousted in a coup.

1987—Iran and Iraq say thousands of combatants are killed in fierce fighting southeast of Iraqi Port City of Basra.

Smile, you're on candid camera

# Focussing on the eighties

**Actor Ben Kingsley stripped off for her, Bob Hoskins jumped in her shower and Michael Caine invited her for breakfast at his restaurant. So who is this woman and what is her charm?**

By Jo Mears

SHE's Gemma Levine, a photographer, who has been taking portraits of the famous faces of the eighties.

Gemma has photographed more than 300 faces for a new book and exhibition and it wasn't easy. She had only a year for the project and sometimes there were only a few seconds in which to capture the celebrities on film.

Newspaper baron Robert Maxwell allowed her one click of the camera and then told her to be off. Margaret Thatcher promised half an hour and then disappeared after only eight minutes and Dynasty star Joan Collins spared just five minutes of her precious time before swanning off to a social engagement.

In the past hectic year, a long list of British leading lights, from artists and sportsmen to



A shot of Gemma Levine taken by her actor friend, Peter Bowles.

businessmen and royalty have flitted through Gemma's lens.

There's a muscular Frank Bruno in his gym, a coooodling clip of ice-skating couple Torvill and Dean and a bare-backed Ben Kingsley with "piercing eyes."

"He ripped off his clothes and said 'here I am,'" recalls Gemma, adding quickly, "But only to the waist!"

Brazen Bob Hoskins went even further and took all his clothes off, diving into a shower and re-emerging dripping for a wet-look photo which made quite a splash!

How did unknown photographer Gemma Levine manage to coax these normally reticent stars to come forward and have their mugs shot?

Because it's all for a good cause — the money from the book and exhibition go to the Sharon Allen Leukaemia Trust, set up in 1984 to raise money to provide care and

treatment for Leukaemia sufferers.

The trust is named after nine-year-old Sharon Allen who suffers from the disease which kills almost as many children as road accidents.

Gemma's lens did not focus only on showbiz personalities. There was Princess Michael of Kent for instance. Captured, not in dignified royal composure, but as a tousled-haired princess relaxing in her front room.

Dashing actor Peter Bowles adds: "She has a very strong and a very warm personality and so she was a joy to be with."

John Gielgud has such a pleasant and relaxing time with Gemma he didn't want to leave!

#### Photography

Gemma, a former interior designer took up photography only ten years ago with a simple instant camera. She started out photographing views, blowing them up into prints and then painting from them. She was so surprised when people bought her work that she decided this must be the direction in which to turn her talents.

The golden rule for 48-year-old Gemma shooting is NO POSING! One upstart insisted that only his right side be photographed and was soon given his marching orders.

Gemma says: "I can't bear people sitting down and then just pointing a camera at them. I like to talk to them and then capture their expression."

You might be chatting to Gemma one minute and the next she plunges into her bag, takes out her camera and clicks.

Actor Nigel Hawthorne is full of praise for Gemma's



Gemma's photograph of Joan Collins. The photographer said her model knew exactly how to pose.

everything doo. "That's how I feel about it."

So in the first year of Gem's professional life as a photographer lucky Gem bad three books on the go.

Not content with just being a photographer she undertook another major project with four of the greatest photographers of our time — The Lords Snowdon and Lichfield and Sir Geoffrey Shakerley and Eric Hosking.

Gemma admits that her Faces of the Eighties project resulted from the break-up of her own 25 years of marriage. Long-standing friend, Marcia Falkender came round to cheer her up and persuaded her to do an exhibition for the Sharon Allen Trust.

Gemma says: "Being busy is the best medicine for me. I like a challenge. If I start a project I always see it through to the end."

Three hundred faces in a year proved to be a strain for even workaholic Gemma. She was

often snapping as many as five faces a day. The sitters would be in and out in five minutes. And the initial list of 50 names soon

grew to over 300. By the end she could hardly keep her eyes open.

Gemma says: "It was really



An informal study of boxer Frank Bruno relaxing in the gym.

pure luck if I managed to get them how I wanted them. But of course, you might get more in five minutes than you do in a whole day."

#### avourite

Gemma's favourite picture is of veteran British writer John Mortimer, seated bare-foot in his back garden on an old straw chair, pulling the same expression as his dog which was close by. Ironically this assignment was almost a disaster.

On her way to John's he was stuck in a traffic jam for hours when she suddenly realised she had left all her gear at home and had to dash back and get it.

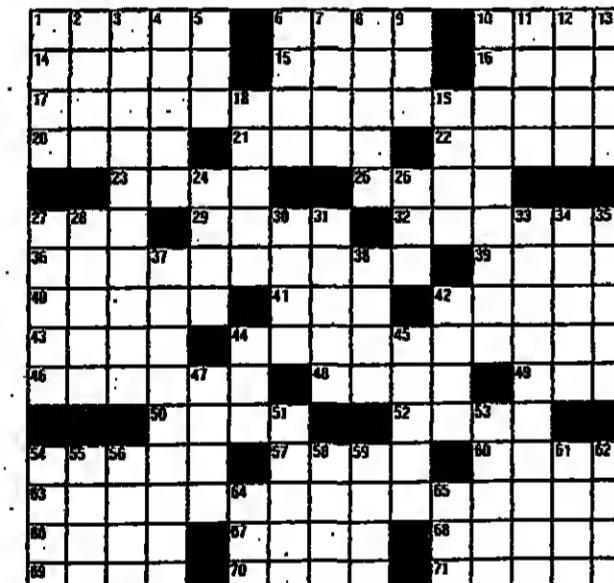
She eventually arrived at John's house with only minutes to spare before the evening light faded. But she got her shot and the fading light really made the picture.

"Faces Of The Eighties" by Gemma Levine  
Published by Collins priced £15.



A relaxed John Mortimer, Gemma's writer friend with his dog.

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
TRY ALL COMBINATIONS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**

♦ K 4  
♥ K Q 3  
♦ 9 7 6 4 2  
♣ Q 10 4

**WEST**

♦ J 10 9 8 6  
♥ K 7 2  
♦ Q 10 9 6  
♣ A 9 8 3

**EAST**

♦ A 5  
♥ A 8 5 4  
♦ A 8 5 3  
♣ K 2

**SOUTH**

♦ A 5  
♥ A 8 5 4  
♦ A 8 5 3  
♣ K 2

The bidding:

South West North East

1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

When you have more than one way to develop the tricks you need, consider the possibilities carefully. The choice of which line to try first could be crucial.

When this hand cropped up in the

final of a district team championship, both declarers reached three no trump on a straight power auction. At both tables the lead was the jack of spades, and it made no dif-

ference in which hand declarer chose to win the trick. But what came next was critical.

With six fast tricks, one declarer decided to gamble everything on a 2-2 diamond break. He tried ace of diamonds and another, but when the suit split 3-1, following the percentages, the defenders were able to force out declarer's remaining spade stopper and come to three spade tricks, two diamonds and a club before declarer could set up the nine books needed.

At the other table, declarer tried a better tack. She won the opening lead and immediately cashed three rounds of hearts. That suit split 3-3, even though it was against the odds. With an extra trick in hearts in the bag, declarer simply forced out the ace of clubs and came to nine tricks via two spades, four hearts, a diamond and two clubs.

Note that, if hearts had not broken, declarer would have lost nothing. She would simply have given up on that red suit and turned her attention to the other one—diamonds. A 2-2 diamond break would then give her the same nine tricks the declarer in the other room would have made.

## THE WIZARD OF ID



By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

**B.C.**



## YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

The prospects are good, but you must not be extravagant. You should avoid saying anything you do not really believe. Think less of yourself, more of others. Be more tolerant.



Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

You should not expect good results overnight or without having to make any efforts. You would do well spending a little more time dealing with a personal matter.



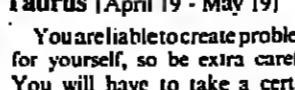
Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You should not dwell too much on what might have been. You have a lot to be thankful for and you should not forget it. And do all you can to make someone else happy just now. Be resilient.



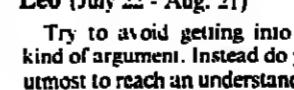
Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You should not dwell too much on what might have been. You have a lot to be thankful for and you should not forget it. And do all you can to make someone else happy just now. Be resilient.



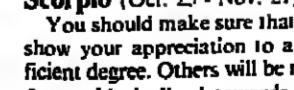
Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You are liable to create problems for yourself, so be extra careful. You will have to take a certain amount of risk, but you should try to minimise it. A few kind words will have a great effect. Be fair.



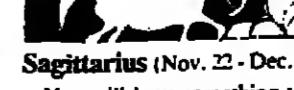
Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

Try to avoid getting into any kind of argument. Instead do your utmost to reach an understanding. Make sure you do not reveal something told to you in great confidence. Be magnanimous.



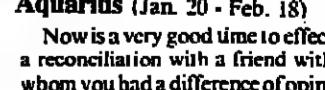
Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You should beware of making empty promises or having them made to you. You should let common sense be very much your guide. Make sure you do not expect something for nothing. Be cordial.



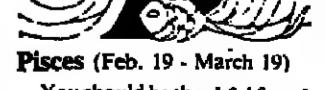
Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will have something to be really pleased about. You will be little too inclined to take things for granted. Do read the instructions carefully before using a new gadget. Be grateful.



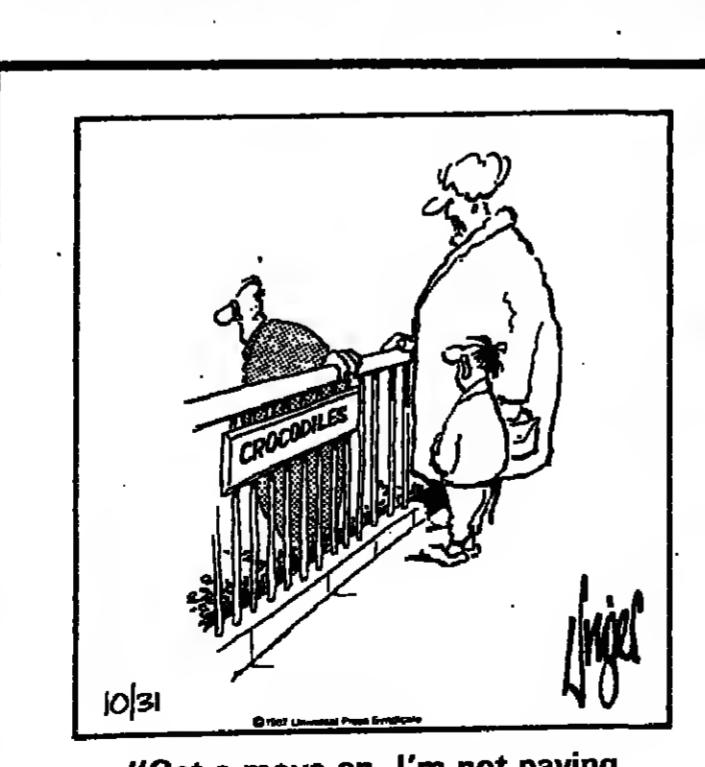
Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Now is a very good time to effect a reconciliation with a friend with whom you had a difference of opinion. You should ensure that you do not do anything that might cause offence.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You should be thankful for what you have, not envious for what you have not. You will be able to do something to widen your interests and should do so. Rally to your friends. Be helpful.



"Get a move on. I'm not paying \$6 for another Frisbee."

All the words that are fit to print and some that aren't

## A dictionary for the hi-tech age

By Eric Levin

KIDS! Tired of mother yanking those comic books out of your hands and telling you to do your homework? Consider a career in dictionary editing. You can read all the comic books you want. Of course, you'll also have to read, among hundreds of other things, aerospace journals, archery magazines, romance novels, menus, match-books, cereal boxes and massage-parlor handbills snatched your way by guys with upturned collars standing on city street corners urging, "Check it out, check it out."

Having second thoughts? Here's another fun part. Those thick, mushy romance novels? You will actually — as part of your job — cut them horizontally in half (so you won't get sucked into the plot) and peruse one half for noteworthy new words and expressions while

**30 editors and their 400 consultants in 170 fields of endeavour have collaborated to supply the latest if not the last word on the state of the world's biggest and fastest-growing language, The Random House Dictionary II. It weighs 12 pounds, contains 2,500 pages costs \$79.95 and took nine years and \$9 million to produce.**

banding the other half to a colleague to do the same. As a dictionary editor, you'll get to go to ball games and watch soap operas. You'll also carry four-by-six "cite" cards in your pocket at all times to jot down any new slang and jargon you may overhear at lunch, on your commute and even while lying on the beach scouring a stack of computer magazines, culinary newsletters and journals of virology.

To a dictionary editor, everything in the world is of interest. More than 200 years ago

Samuel Johnson, a lexicographer himself, defined a dictionary editor as "a harmless drudge." But to Stuart Berg Flexner, editor-in-chief of the second edition of the Random House Dictionary of the English Language — the first, new, unabridged dictionary to be published in the USA in two decades — more romantic images spring to mind.

"It sounds silly, because a dictionary doesn't seem exciting," says Flexner, 59. "But it's almost like working on a newspaper, because you feel you sort of have a hot line to the world."

"If a newspaper were 2,500 pages long, weighed 12 pounds and cost \$79.95, paperboys would need catapults to deliver it. RHD-II also took nine years and \$9 million to produce, out exactly a "Hello, sweetheart, get me write" schedule. But thanks to Flexner, his staff of 30 editors and their 400 consultants in 170 fields of endeavour, RHD-II does supply the latest, if not the last, word on the state of the world's biggest and fastest-growing language.

Terms

"For a while there, the editor banding medical terms was on the phone twice a week to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta for the latest on AIDS," says Flexner. "Long before the drug AZT hit the headlines, one of our consultants was telling us, 'Be sure that's it; going to be a biggie.' The dictionary that Dr John-

son compiled in 1755 contains fewer than 100,000 words. Today, says Flexner, "No one really knows how many words there are in English — some estimates are well over a million." Arcana abounds. There are hundreds of thousands of insects, plants and chemical dyes, for example, each with a name. What RHD-II offers "is, we hope, every word in every field from the most vulgar to the most technical, that we can expect anyone to come across," says Flexner. That works out to 315,000 entries, some of them real freight trains (90 primary uses for "go," 179 for "run"). With 470,000 entries, Webster's Third New International

passed muster. Couch potato was deemed not widely enough used to make it. Along with "diok" (double income, no kids) and "surimi" (that all-purpose fish product passed off as crabmeat in seafood salads), couch potatoes will have to

**No one really knows how many words there are in English — some estimates are well over a million.**

Dictionary — the only other one-volume unabridged in English — is bigger but less current. Since it was published in 1961, 12,000 changes have been made through updates every five years.

Meanwhile, the RHD-II staff's novel-slicing and card-jotting has netted 50,000 new words and expressions that didn't exist or weren't yet widespread when RHD-I was published in 1966. A high-five, by the way, is concisely defined in RHD-II as "a gesture of greet-

ing, good-fellowship or triumph in which one person slaps the upraised palm of the hand against that of another." Also unearthed were 75,000 new meanings of old words (Example: RHD-II must have been a mother to proofread).

In the last 21 years America has gone high-tech, learning how to interface while knowing diddy-squat about how microchips work and maxing out on aeronyms like CD, PC and VHS. Gay has become accepted as a nonslang word if not as a life-style. Guilty chocoholics laced up running shoes and entered triathlons until shin splints (which are the pits) turned them into "couch potatoes" who watch movies or the Super Bowl while pigging out on fast food and cannoli.

Describe

Yet not every new term passed muster. Couch potato was deemed not widely enough used to make it. Along with "diok" (double income, no kids) and "surimi" (that all-purpose fish product passed off as crabmeat in seafood salads), couch potatoes will have to

wait for the third edition, due early in the 21st century. But they probably won't mind.

Bummer barely begins to describe the end of the hippie era, when grunts return from Nam made booz and punji stick, free-fire zone and, especially, Agent Orange households words (though it sounds modern, the phrase household word dates to at least 1600, RHD-II says). To fast-forward a bit, gate has become a ubiquitous suffix for scandal. Americans may be



Editor Stuart Flexner: 'No new words from the Iran-Contra hearings, but we made sure we brought "shredding" up to date.'

issues such as whether it should be "lasagne" or "lasagna."

The more prevalent lasagna won out over the older spelling, though some traditionalists editors felt it was too soon to change. On an even more ticklish issue, a clear majority prevailed in favour of including all the big-league curse words.

At their monthly conferences beginning in 1976, the RHD-II staff threshed out nettlesome



"Wimp" came into use 70 years ago, but made it big recently.

research assistant at Louisville, he interviewed bank robbers, pickpockets and prostitutes for a study of criminal argot, and co-edited his first lexicon, The Dictionary of American Slang, in 1960. He worked as a senior editor on RHD-I and wrote two popular books on language in American culture before being named editor-in-chief of RHD-II in 1980.

Now that the job is done, you might expect him to be zonked. No way! On Halloween, which happened to be his son Geoffrey's 17th birthday — his daughter, Jenifer, 18, was away at college — Flexner and his wife, Doris, who works in advertising, invited friends over to watch three horror flicks on the VCR.

Flexner doesn't much like horror movies, but he wasn't being just an indulgent dad. He was scouting words for the third edition. He found none, but wasn't disturbed. "You keep looking," he says. "because they're out there."

Go for it, big guy!



People listen to reggae on their 'Walkmans'.

## QE2: S.S. Disaster

The QE2 is the world's most luxurious ocean liner and the most unreliable. Now, as even her own crew fire a broadside at Cunard's flagship, she seems firmly on course for retirement.

By Carlton Stuart

IS THE QE2 still the stylish white hope of the British maritime industry? Or is it just a greying dinosaur, creaking towards her final voyage?

For it seems that the ill-luck which constantly dogs the world's most splendid passenger liner could, before long, sink her to the depths of the nearest scrap yard. And this time the hot water is coming from her own crew.

Never in its history has the vessel had to weather such a storm. Her owners Cunard intended her to be the super-elegant inheritor of a great transatlantic tradition, a magnificent floating palace of sheer luxury. But increasingly the question is being asked: for how much longer can the 67,000-ton Queen Elizabeth II delay relegation to a museum for yesterday's travel?

A crew member recently declared: "The best thing you can say right now about the QE2 is that it is the safest place in the world to have heart attack. Passengers can be rushed to the ship's hospital in under two minutes."

In other respects the QE2 is a fair contender for the title of "S.S. Disaster."

Plagued by a catalogue of mechanical faults — limping along this summer on a single propeller and suffering cuts in speed through engine-control system breakdowns — the owners of the QE2 are still de-

termined to maintain Britain's high standard of sea travel. But with former vessels that have included the Mauretania, the Queen Mary and the first Queen Elizabeth, it is a tough act to follow.

Flagship

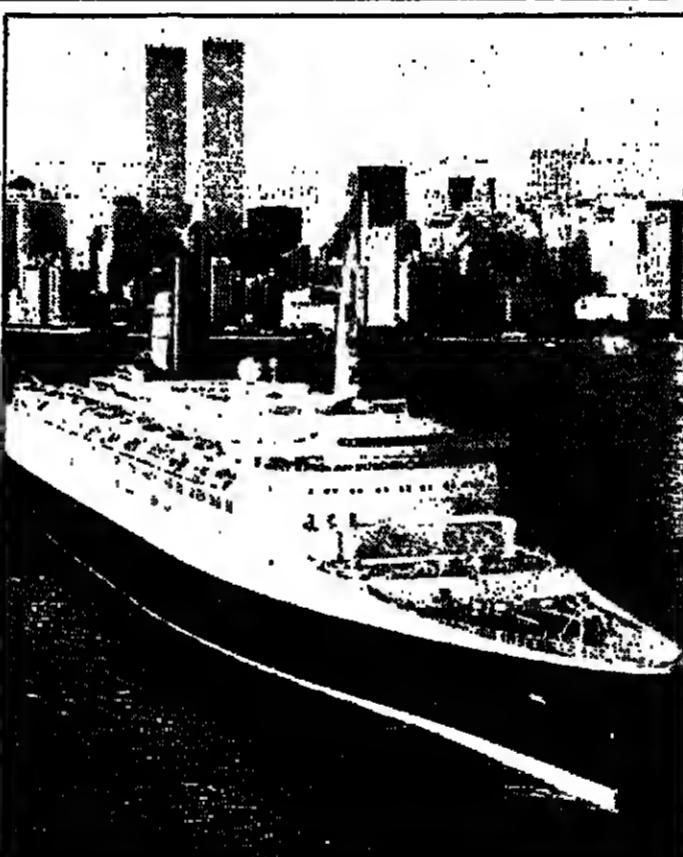
Only this summer Cunard's flagship was late in completing a six-day cruise of the Iberian peninsula and passengers due to set sail on a 16-day Bermuda cruise had to languish in shore hotels.

There were other inefficiencies and delays to be endured by 1,200 passengers paying up to £3,500 each and that was after Cunard chairman Alan Kennedy had described the ship's latest refit as "the greatest maritime conversion ever."

The work carried out in the West German shipyard of Lloyds Werft at Bremerhaven, is intended to extend the vessel's life by 20 years. At the core of the conversion had been a "heart transplant" of new machinery, including nine German-built diesel electric engines to replace extravagant oil-guzzling steam turbines.

Although the £100 million refit was carried out, the work remained unfinished. The vessel, returned to service, prepared to put to sea with 80 cabins not ready for use, carpets unlaaid and equipment littering decks.

One Cunard employee admitted: "After that, it was question of ducking to avoid



The world's most luxurious ocean liner, The Queen Elizabeth II leaves port.

before the contents could be assembled into bombs.

That IRA threat was swiftly followed by an anti-drug dragnet in New York, when a car unloaded from the QE2 was found to have a hidden cache of 200 pounds of heroin worth \$40 million.

Such threats were far from mind when the original concept of the QE2 was dreamt up. The ship's aim was to offer the world an elegant contrast to an era of travel increasingly dominated by cheap fast air travel. At 65,863 tons, the QE2

was conceived as being smaller than the earlier Queens with aluminium superstructure to make it lighter than its predecessors.

Even so it boasted 13 decks,

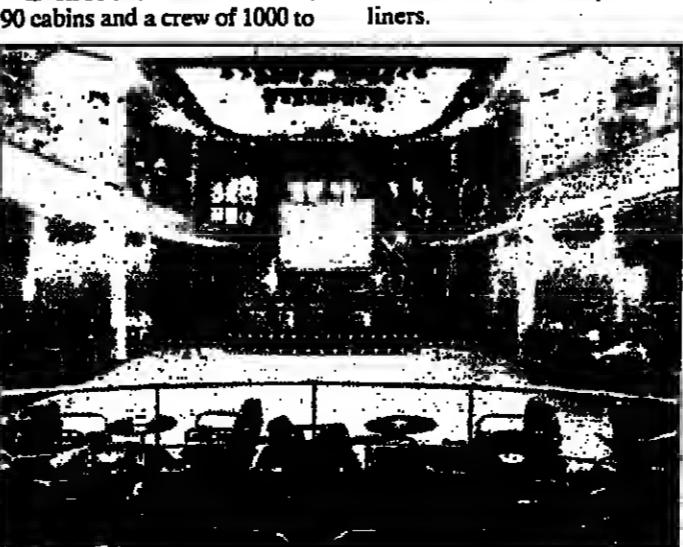
90 cabins and a crew of 1,000 to

cater for an average of 1,200 passengers. The market was for those wanting a one-way transatlantic crossing at costs ranging from £420 to £1,725.

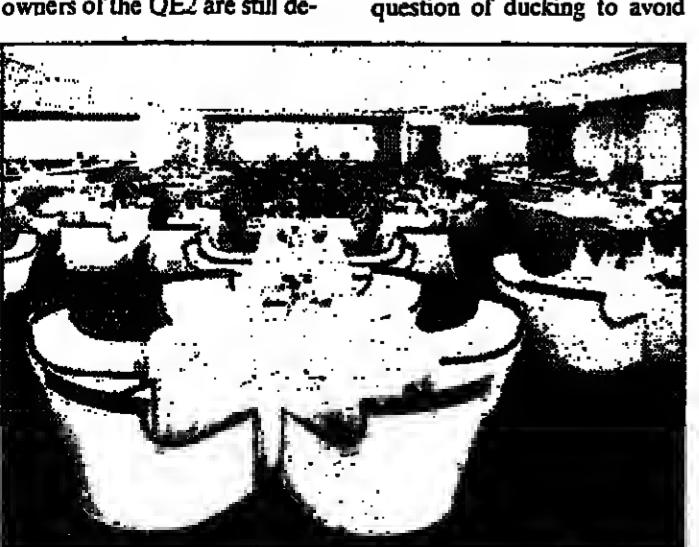
Passengers would be pampered in four swimming pools, eight bars, four restaurants, a casino, a night club, a library, a theatre, a sauna and gymnasium.

Anyone with a hearty appetite could choose 50 items from the breakfast menu and pass the time in a variety of ways ranging from putting golf balls to attending classes on wine appreciation, languages, hairdressing and extra-sensory perception.

In the background though was always the memory of the low success record of previous liners.



Passengers relax, listening to the band, in the grand lounge of the QE2.



The Queen's Grill is just one of 4 restaurants on ship.

By Al Webb

LONDON. (UPI): They've celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's silver jubilee, the Titanic's 75th death day and the 50th anniversary of King Edward VIII's abdication. Now it's Jack the Ripper's turn.

Old "bloody Jack" is about to get the full, multimillion-dollar media hype, including his own spot on prime-time British and US television.

The occasion is the centenary of the Ripper's claim to infamy, a series of grisly murders of prostitutes in the squalor of London's gas-lit, fog-shrouded East End.

The 100th anniversary of the Ripper slayings actually does not begin until Aug 31, but British entrepreneurs — with American help — are already at work proving there is money in murder, eventually.

In memory of the man who made "mass murder" a household phrase, a new cottage industry is taking form: a deluge of books and magazine articles, a television mini-series, T-shirts, postcards, posters, even a new cocktail.

Meanwhile, Britons and tourists alike are swarming through the East End's seedy streets, retracing the byways where the archfiend carved a deadly swath and terrorised a city from Aug 31 to Nov 9, 1888.

In truth, there is not really a lot to see. The East End is still grubby, but in Jack the Ripper's day it was a cesspool where 900,000 slum-dwellers fought to live, and sometimes just to fight, ignored even by the Church of England.

It was in Buck's Row, opposite Essex Wharf, before dawn on Friday, Aug 31, 1888, that George Cross spotted what he thought was a tarpaulin.

Tourists take a hint: if you go looking for Ripper thrills, expect a rip-off.

By 20th-century massmorder standards, Jack the Ripper's five victims (the generally accepted number, despite what Qostrowski's pub sign says) seem paupers.

The mystic is not in numbers but in acceptance that they were the first serial slayings to have widespread public impact, and in the folklore that has grown up around the fact they have never been solved, and probably never will be.

Not that there aren't suspects. There are, aplenty, including the Duke of Clarence, Queen Victoria's grandson, famed artist Walter Sickert, a failed barrister named蒙古 John Drury, Russian Czarist agent Alexei Pedachko, Polish-Jew tailor Nathan Kaminsky, a cabal of police Freemasons — and, at one brief point, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who gave the world Sherlock Holmes.

Early on Sunday, Sept 30, the Ripper struck twice more, killing Swindish-born prostitute Elizabeth "Long Liz" Stride in a small court between Berner street and Back Court Lane, and then Catherine Eddowes in Mitre Square, several blocks away.

On Monday, Sept 30, the Ripper struck again, killing Annie Chapman.

## Jack the Ripper gets full media treatment

players this time around is big-time television, determined to get its cut of the Ripper centenary.

British Thames Television is planning a four-part mini-series, which will attempt to identify Jack the Ripper, and CBS has agreed to buy it for \$6.1 million — only the second British drama series to be sold to a major US network.

The series is scheduled for showing in Britain and the United States next year to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the murders.

Thames is nothing new to the Ripper. In the 1970s, it was the subject of an investigative series, a Sherlock Holmes TV movie (based on nothing Conan Doyle ever wrote), and a US-made mystery that even had the Ripper popping up in all places, Seattle.

But it is no trick that Jack the Ripper has made his greatest and most lasting impact, with more than 200 books and major articles by writers who seem to spend as much time shooting down each other's theories as they do trying to spot the killer.

The deluge is growing. Five more Ripper books are due before the end of the year, a sixth is in the works and doubtless others will pour in a Ripper-mania approaches its peak next summer and fall.

One of the new volumes, Melvyn Harris's "Jack the Ripper: The Bloody Truth," has a new twist. It sets up a Ripper competition, offering a weekend in Paris as a prize for solving the meaning of the signature of one of the author's suspects.

In "The Ripper Legacy," Martin Howells and Keith Skinner serve up poor Drury, the failed lawyer, as the Ripper suspect of the month.

That theory is debunked by Colin Wilson, in his "Jack the Ripper" summing up and verdict, partly on grounds that Drury was a gentleman cricket player and as such, Wilson claims, could not possibly have done it.

And there is Martin Fido's "The Crimes, Detection and Death of Jack the Ripper," which names Tailor Kaminsky as the culprit. Writer Terence Sharkey's unnamed contribution to this outpouring is dismissed by one reviewer as "a revoltingly lurid effort."

In fact, reviewer Christopher Huddoo of the London Evening Standard is fairly damning of all the current crop of Ripperology authors: "They dip their pens into the blood of the five mutilated women as lovingly as the slaughter's thin-blooded knife."

Spotted the Ripper is a game anyone can play. Among the

New Delhi by night: a time of hope and despair

# Voyage through the netherworld

By Earleen Fisher

**NEW DELHI**, India (AP): A ghostly fog descends on the city at night, and silence prevails in streets that by sunrise will again be a cacophony of honking car horns, backfiring trucks and exhaust-belching buses and scooters.

To travel across New Delhi on a winter night is to take a trip through the history, the social strata, the hopes and despairs of a city where people have lived since at least 2500 B.C.

The 12-mile (20 km) drive is like a voyage through the netherworld. Homeless people wrapped in blankets sleep mummy-like on the pavements, men in tattered clothing move darkly in the shadows, and sacred cows glide through the gloom like disembodied Hindu deities.

Occasionally the bright lights of a late-night market or a glittering luxury hotel pull the night traveller back into the momentary glow of a more familiar world.

Midday temperatures of 75 and 80 (farhenheit) (24 and 27 C.) drop to 45 and 50 (7 and 10 C.) at night. The accompanying dampness chills body and spirit.

Rich and middle-class residents of the Indian capital are snug behind the walls and flowering trees surrounding their houses. The streets are overwhelmingly the province of the poor, who are myriad in this city of 6 million.

The night journey begins where Mathura road crosses the Ring road, a modern urban bypass encircling the capital. As Mathura road heads north



A bitter winter's night in New Delhi. The poor sleep on pavements huddled together for sheer warmth.

through the elegantly planned modern city of New Delhi, it will change names several times before it ends in a tangle of small streets leading to the 17th century walls of Old Delhi.

At a bridge near the Ring road, Shiv Sharma, a 21-year-old aspiring accountant, is selling hard-boiled eggs to help pay for his college tuition.

"I thought of eggs because they are something people buy

at night," Sharma said. "I'm here seven nights a week after classes." He said he sells 15 to 20 eggs a night. At 1.25 rupees (about 10 cents) an egg, he can make 25 rupees (almost two dollars) on a good night.

#### Advertise

The bridge, where billboards advertise Shikakai shampoo and Weston television sets, conceals a night-time colony of

about 1,000 truck drivers who work 12 to 14 hours a day hauling sand from neighbouring Haryana state to the capital for construction projects.

Ram Avtar, a 22-year-old trucker, came to New Delhi seven years ago after failing to find work in his native Farukhabad district 180 miles (290 km) southeast of the city.

He earns about \$115 a month and sends half back to Farukhabad, to the wife he has seen only twice since their wedding 11 months ago.

"Definitely, I would go home if there were work," Avtar said, sipping tea under the bridge as other drivers washed themselves with the icy water of an outdoor spigot.

Back on top of the bridge, the lights of the 50-dollar-a-night hotel Rajdoot beckon more affluent night people to the Pussycat discotheque, where a score of men and three women in hue jeans jerk and writhe on a minuscule floor.

#### Pay

Further up the four-lane pavement, now called Dr Zakir Hussain road after India's third president, men wrapped in blankets trudge past shuttered shops.

The bright lights mark a winding lane where vendors sell hot food and flower garlands. At a graveyard near Nizamuddin Aulia mosque, Noor Jahan is unrolling quilts on a wooden platform where she will spend the night with her 7-year-old son, Mohammed Ismail.

It has been almost eight years since Noor, who reckons her age at 40 and looks 60, has slept in a house. She was pregnant when her husband, a carpenter, died.

"I couldn't pay the rent, so the landlord threw me out," she said. "I've been very ill since the birth of my son, so I can't work. The mosque gives us free food."

Across the road, darkness descends again at the entrance to the tomb of the 16th century Mogul Emperor Humayun.

"About 200 of us live here, sleeping on the ground," said Jaffer Husseini, who thought he was about 18 years old. "When important visitors come to see the tomb, the police move us. Otherwise, no one disturbs us."

In the daytime, he collects manure from wandering cows to be sold as fertilizer. This earns him 10 or 15 rupees (75 cents or 1.15 dollars) a day. "Just enough to fill our stomachs," his mother, Basiran, interjected.

The road remains dark until the luxuriant Oberoi hotel where a white-gloved and turbaned doorman snaps to attention to welcome foreign tourists and local couples out for an evening of Indian or French cuisine costing as much as Rs 400 (\$30) a person.

In the marble lobby, there's a rustle of silk as Indian women in jewel-toned saris swirl past visitors in tailored suits.

Soon the road runs up to India Gate, the 138-foot (42-metre)-high stone arch bearing the names of 90,000 Indian army soldiers who died in World War I and colonial Britain's Afghanistan campaign.

It's 10:30 p.m. and there's no one in sight except a half-dozen vendors, waiting hopefully for someone to buy their ice cream bars, flower garlands and balloons.

Inside the walls, the city springs to life in small pockets. Cooks at hole-in-the-wall restaurants dish up sizzling spicy food, and chicken sellers haggle over prices for their caged and squawking merchandise.

Next to Jama Masjid, a 17th century mosque, is a line of bicycle-powered rickshaws, their drivers finished with work but still awake.

Members of the Ganga Risala Camel Corp beat the retreat in front of the presidential palace in New Delhi. A ghostly fog descends on the city at night.

The road is now named Kasurha Gandhi, after the wife of independence leader Mahandas K. (Mahatma) Gandhi, and it's deserted as it runs up to Connaught Place, the vast wheel of concentric circular streets that form the hub of daytime Delhi's commercial life.

Beyond Connaught Place, three policemen man a sandbagged checkpoint where the walls are plastered with mug shots of suspected Sikh terrorists.

But the most exciting thing that ever happened at the checkpoint was "The night we caught a stolen motorcycle," constable Sudwar Khan said.

As the road narrows and winds toward the walls of old Delhi, it is lined with hundreds, if not thousands, of people wrapped in blankets and sleeping side by side on the ground.

Inside the walls, the city springs to life in small pockets. Cooks at hole-in-the-wall restaurants dish up sizzling spicy food, and chicken sellers haggle over prices for their caged and squawking merchandise.

Next to Jama Masjid, a 17th century mosque, is a line of bicycle-powered rickshaws, their drivers finished with work but still awake.

Posters on the mosque's fence exhort Muslims to

remember their brothers who died in last summer's riots with Hindus, the majority sect in India where religious diversity frequently explodes into violence.

But the rickshaw drivers, both Hindus and Muslims, said that was not part of their lives.

"When you live on the pavement, there is no Hindu, no Muslim." We are all brothers, said a 23-year-old Muslim rickshaw man who refused to give his name.

Curly-haired and with the wiry build of the rickshaw man, he said he earns about Rs 50 (3.85 dollars) a day. Of that, he pays Rs 10 (75 cents) to the rickshaw owner, rents a quilt for Rs 3 (23 cents) a night, and spends the rest on his food and bad habits.

North of the walled city and its warren of narrow streets, ambling cows and mangy dogs, Shambhavi road leads to the Ring road at the northern end of the city.

It runs past the Sikh shrine of Sisganj Gurdwara, the Roman Catholic presentation convent school for girls and municipal government buildings to Delhi university, where grassy playing fields reflect the sheen of the moon.



By sunrise the city is a cacophony of car horns, back-firing trucks and exhaust-belching buses and scooters.

# Amsterdam digs up another century of history

By Marcel Michelson

**AMSTERDAM**, (AP): Amsterdam has just dug up another century of history — only a dozen years after celebrating what it thought was its 700th birthday.

Digging under the Nieuwendijk, a busy Amsterdam shopping street, archaeologists have found several layers of house foundations in peaty soil seven metres (yards) below street level; the oldest dating back to the 12th century.

"The earliest document mentioning Amsterdam is a letter by Count Floris the fifth of the year 1275, in which he grants Amsterdam the privilege of free, untaxed trade," Amsterdam's city archaeologist Jan Baart said.

This date was traditionally taken as the origin of the Dutch capital. But the new findings put the city's beginnings back by another century, Baart said. "These houses are the earliest we have found up to now. Just plain wooden constructions put directly on the moors. They had to be rebuilt every few years because the houses sank into the marsh land," Baart said.

Swampy ground has always been a problem for Amsterdam.

The tiny village now discovered carried the seeds of Amsterdam's buoyant economic development that led to its dominance in the 17th-century "golden age," when it firmly established its reputation as the world's foremost trading centre, Baart said.

The entire city centre is kept upright by more than a million pinewood piles, all at least 12 metres (yards) deep to reach the first firm sand layer. Nowadays, buildings are erected on concrete piles, driven to a



City archaeologist Jan Baart standing in front of an excavation in Amsterdam's red light district. The city has just discovered another century of history, only a dozen years after celebrating what it thought was its 700th birthday.

depth of 20 metres (yards).

The tiny village now discovered carried the seeds of Amsterdam's buoyant economic development that led to its dominance in the 17th-century "golden age," when it firmly established its reputation as the world's foremost trading centre, Baart said.

Regular floods in the north Holland lowland lake area destroyed much agricultural land and semi-many farmlands to the village to take up a trade.

"This caused an economic revolution. Barter trade became increasingly difficult and people started using money. We have found coins here of the oldest type in the Netherlands — black

Dam and started settlements on

30 km (19 miles). But its position on the bank of the Amstel river, enabling it to trade with towns further away, gave this village the edge.

Regular floods in the north Holland lowland lake area destroyed much agricultural land and semi-many farmlands to the village to take up a trade.

Craftsmen in Amsterdam then emulated them, Baart said.

Around the year 1240, a century after the establishment of the village, people on the West Bank of the river Amstel built a

dam and started settlements on

the Leidse bank. They called their town "Amstel Dam".

In the following centuries, trade protectionism in the Netherlands, financial backing by Italian bankers and the arrival of skilled immigrants from Flanders in Belgium helped turn Amsterdam into a prosperous trading centre, Baart said.

"Outright protectionism is an important aspect of economic development in Amsterdam," Baart said.

"In the early days, strangers were barred from professions other than travelling merchants. Later, the guilds (cooperatives of craftsmen) decided who was allowed to take up a craft."

Political authorities also helped Amsterdam in its development by granting it specific rights.

Its population growing fast, Amsterdam became an important supplier of soldiers for the ruling counts' armies, to exchange, the city demanded, and obtained, more and more privileges.

"This mixed bag of influences finally made Amsterdam a prosperous city in the 17th century," Baart said.

The excavation site, soon to be abandoned to accommodate a new hotel, revealed striking examples of the city's rapid development. Four metres below street level, remnants were discovered of a 14th-century hospital — Amsterdam's first.

The hospital was founded to run out of land. Everybody wants a little land. The only land left is in Harlem. That's why it's going to be rebuilt."

**Rentals**

At Harlem's main western intersection, 110th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard, 2,200 units will be available in June 1988 when a renovation project is completed. Prices will range from \$60,000 per unit set aside for those with low incomes — to \$200,000 or more, depending upon the marketplace.

"We discovered that this smith made the same copper buttons that fellow-archaeologists have been digging up at Indian settlements around New York and also in Brazil," he said.

The current development is

just the latest of Harlem's many metamorphoses.

Harlem, the Dutch village, took over an Indian village in 1658. Gen. George Washington, who led the American war for independence from Britain, had his headquarters north of there. In 1873 the village was annexed by New York City and became its first residential and quite fashionable suburb.

Starting in 1904, real estate agents engineered the migration of blacks into the area to take over rentals that had gone begging. Many homes were divided into apartments or rooms, rents were raised and a legacy of overcrowding and poor maintenance began.

In the 1920s, Harlem became known as the capital of black America. Downtown society came up to hear jazz and see shows at places like the Cotton Club, which excluded blacks.

"Harlem is on the move," said Eugene Wehrl, chairman of one of the area's largest real estate companies. Wehrl and Brokers.

"Why? Land. You're going to run out of land. Everybody wants a little land. The only land left is in Harlem. That's why it's going to be rebuilt."

**Issues**

Foremost among those moving into Harlem soon, Wehrl thinks, will be young urban professionals, known throughout the United States as yuppies.

"The yuppie comes to where the action is. He will creep further and further north," Sehrl said. "These people are going to move into Harlem."

Ten years ago, when New York was shaking off its fiscal crisis, Wehrl might have sounded like the wildest of speculators. But neighbourhood bars

and mom-and-pop groceries on the Upper West Side, just south of Harlem, have been transformed into fashionable nightspots and boutiques.

Harlem, however, poses unique circumstances. The gentrification process in succo Manhattan neighbourhood as Sobo, Tribeca and Yorkville pushed out crumpling factories or the poor. Harlem boasts long-time community and political clout that will be used to try to regulate redevelopment and keep some of the housing for the poor.

"Whatever development that looks at many issues besides building, such as jobs, housing, education and recreational facilities," said Manhattan borough president David Dinkins.

Harlem's 1980 population of 466,000 was about 49 per cent black, 34 per cent Hispanic, 14 per cent white and the rest Asian and other.

Development is sure to mean a larger white population, and it appears that whites will be most likely to benefit financially from any building boom.

"Right now, Harlem is going to be developed by white people," Wehrl said. "I don't think we have the resources to go into big development."

A walking tour of Harlem winds past boarded-up buildings, tree-lined residences, expensive new co-ops and graffiti-scarred tenements. But buildings that sold for just a few thousand dollars five to 10 years ago are selling in the hundreds of thousands today. In 1980, the average property sales price was \$140,000 in mid-1985, it was \$450,000.

By Smith

## ANDY CAPP



1988 Tribune media services.



مکانات اداری

## CURRENCY & BUSINESS

### Takeshita nervous about trip to US, Canada

TOKYO, Jan 10. (Reuters) With public trade tension between Japan and the West running high, Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita leaves for the United States and Canada this week suffering from personal apprehension as well.

"I shall be visiting these two countries with some feeling of tension," Takeshita told foreign reporters last week.

The journey to Japan's largest trading partners will be a closely-watched test of Takeshita's diplomatic skill and foreign policy knowledge, government officials said.

#### Too little

Takeshita is viewed by many as having too little experience in international affairs.

This will be the Prime Minister's first trip to North America since taking office last November.

He will visit Washington from Tuesday to Friday, meeting President Reagan on Wednesday. He will meet other administration officials and congressional leaders as well.

On Friday Takeshita flies to Toronto to start a Canadian visit that ends on Sunday. He returns to Japan on January 20 after visiting Hawaii.

Government officials said the prime minister will have to walk a fine line between domestic pressure groups opposed to change and strong US demands that Japan open its farm and construction markets to foreigners.

"Those two issues, if not properly handled, could cause serious problems to Japan-US relations, which are very solid otherwise," said a senior foreign ministry official, who asked not to be identified.

#### Depends

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party depends heavily on farmers' votes and financial support from construction firms, especially those involved in government-funded public works.

A litany of complaints against Japanese trading practices, filed by the US special trade representative's office and private companies, will also be taken up during Takeshita's trip, US officials said.

Some Japanese newspapers reported today that Japan had devised a plan to enable US participation in a selected number of large-scale public works projects.

### KIO's vital role praised

LONDON, Jan 10. (Kuna) An influential British newspaper paid tribute today to the role played by Kuwait Investment Office here in encouraging investors to buy shares in Britain's largest company, British Petroleum.

In one week BP has been transformed from "the stock no one would touch to the most exotic international stock around the world," the Sunday Times newspaper stressed.

The weekly made it clear that "the magic wand" had been waved by KIO, the government agency here, "which scooped up to 18.04 percent of BP, by splashing out more than £900 million on the partly-paid shares" issued in the government's privatisation programme for the company last October.

#### Move

Praising KIO's move the paper pointed out that it has helped underwriters of the BP issues and boosted liquidity in London stock market overall.

"A couple of weeks ago nobody wanted BP stock. Now, buying by the KIO has brought back droves of investors," it emphasised.

KIO's action came in the wake of the stock market crash in October last year, when investors did not show any interest in buying shares in BP, the world's third largest firm, it added.

BP's new shares now jumped from 70 pence last Monday to 79 pence, while the old ones rose from 250 to 270 pence after Kuwait "oils the recovery" of BP.

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Sterling Pounds	501.50
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Bid Other	USD 13.63
Offer	USD 5.60
The Islamic Fund	USD 6.05
Offer	USD 5.00
Golden Investors	KD 5.00
Offer	USD 2.50
Offer	GBP 7.25
Offer	SFR 3.00

## Pension fund that will cheer expatriates

By Midas

MANY expatriates here wonder what they should do about providing a pension for their old age since few companies in Kuwait offer such benefits.

Obviously, this is a very complex area and everybody's situation will be different so what follows should only be taken as a general outline of the subject.

The first point to make is that for most expatriates, especially long-term ones, a pension plan is not really such a good idea.

The reason is simple, in Britain and most other Western countries, the government is anxious to assist those who make their own pension arrangements.

This assistance is given in the form of tax concessions.

In Britain, for example, you can pay up to 12.12 per cent of your income tax free, into a pension fund. This makes good financial sense, particularly as the pension fund itself has many tax benefits.

However, if you are living abroad, you are not paying tax anyway, so this concession is worthless.

Furthermore, although you may be able to draw a tax-free pension, nevertheless, the underlying funds in which the pension money is actually invested, are subject to taxation at the normal rates.

For the expatriate, it is far wiser to simply save as much capital as possible, thus creating your own pension fund. You can save in cash, bonds, gilts or equities, or a judicious mix of all of them. Then, when you retire, convert the whole fund into an income generating investment and use that income as your pension.

Arrangements

This way you will be able to avoid all taxation throughout the entire duration of your absence abroad.

When it is time to return, you will, of course, have to make special arrangements in order to

safeguard your capital gains. The easiest way to do this is to 'bed and breakfast' your funds. This simply means that you arrange to sell the units, bonds or whatever on one day and re-purchase them the following day.

In the case of bank accounts, you simply close the account, then re-open it the day after. This might sound a bit silly, but to effect, what you are doing is re-establishing your capital base.

If, for example, you have invested £25,000 and it has grown, over the years to £50,000, then the Taxman will take a large bite out of your £25,000 profit.

However, if you 'bed and breakfast' the £50,000 before you go home, then it will consider the entire £50,000 to be your initial capital, so far as taxation is concerned. Therefore you will not have to pay any tax at all.

Continue

If you wish to continue to receive a tax-free income after your return home, this can also be arranged by using what is

called an Offshore Assurance Policy.

To do this, you simply get one of the major assurance companies like the Royal, or London Life, to write an offshore policy which covers your entire savings.

These days they will only charge a minimal amount for this service, say one per cent of the total sum involved.

This policy will allow you to withdraw five per cent per year totally free of tax.

If you need to withdraw more than 5 per cent you will only have to pay tax according to a complex, but quite beneficial, schedule.

Directed

The above advice is mainly directed at long-term expatriates. If you are only here for two or three years, then it would be wise to continue with any pension scheme that you have already started whilst back home.

Alternatively, you can use your time here to build up a lump sum which you can then use to

start a pension scheme on your return.

The crucial thing to remember is that inflation, even at a mere 5 per cent per year, can make a big difference. You have probably seen those adverts which say if you invest so much a month in a pension plan for thirty years you will end up with a vast amount of cash.

Sounds wonderful, but when you take inflation into account, that vast amount might be painfully inadequate. If you have £10,000 in the bank earning nine per cent interest, it isn't really growing by nine per cent at all.

Inflation

It's only growing by the difference between the interest rate and the rate of inflation.

So at present, if inflation is roughly 4 per cent your capital is only really growing by 5 per cent. Any calculations that you make about what your pension will finally be worth should take this into account, or you may well end up in trouble.

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 1988

### KUWAIT

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NATIONAL BANK	1.020	1.020	1.030	1.020	465000	23
GULF BANK	0.395	0.400	0.400	0.400	10000	1
COMMERCIAL BK	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.275	10000	1
ALI BANK	0.380	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
B.K.M.E	0.300	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
I.R.E.B.	0.490	0.455	0.455	0.455	10000	1
BURSAW BANK	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	50000	1
K.F.HOUSE	0.500	0.510	0.510	0.510	160000	5
INVESTMENT SECTOR	0.218	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
KMT INV. CO.	0.210	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.176	0.174	0.174	0.174	40000	2
K.I.I.C.	0.140	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
COM.FACILITIES	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
ANILAH INV.	0.116	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
I.F.A.	0.108	0.100	0.106	0.100	3080474	14
INSURANCE SECTOR	0.800	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
GULF INSURANCE	0.390	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
TAHLIA INS. CO.	0.610	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
WARBA INS. CO.	0.510	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
REAL EST. SECTOR	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	86510	6
KMT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	40000	2
UNI R.E.S.T. CO.	0.244	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
WAT R.E.S.T.	0.076	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
SAHLAH R.E.	0.094	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
KM PROJECTS	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
KMT R.E.I.CON	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
INDUSTRY SECTOR	0.580	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
NAT IND. CO.	0.360	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
KMT M.P. IND.	0.290	0.248	0.248	0.248	37500	1
KMT CEMENT CO.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
REFR. IND. CO.	0.395	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
N.A.M.T.CO.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
GULF CABLE	1.040	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
K.PH.IND. CO.	0.180	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
CONT. MARINE	0.350	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
K.S.H.REP.CO.	0.055	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
SERVICES SECTOR	0.100	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
OVERTLAND TRANS	0.218	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
K.N.C. CO.	0.168	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
KMT HOTELS CO.	0.188	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
P.WAREHOUSING	0.188	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
CON.NKT.CMPX.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	400000	3
MOBILE TELE.	0.395	0.400	0.400	0.400	40000	3
UNITD COMPUTER	0.196	0.192	0.192	0.192	100000	4
FOOD SECTOR	0.250	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.154	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
UNITD FISHERIES	0.280	0.250	0.250	0.250	20000	1
XFM FOODS	0.345	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
AGRI.FOOD PRD.	0.150	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
NON-KVT. SECTOR	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	

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## SPORTS

SRI LANKANS LOSE ANOTHER WSC MATCH

## Boon ton takes Aussies to victory

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 10. (Reuters) David Boon overcame oppressive heat and battered Sri Lanka's bowlers to post his highest one-day cricket score and lead Australia to an 81-run victory in the World Series Cup match today.

The stocky Tasmanian opener made 122 before he became the second Australian to lose his wicket, but by then he had played a pivotal role in two match-winning partnerships.

Boon's marvellous innings helped Australia amass 289 for another 50 overs, which left Sri Lanka chasing 5.8 runs per over to win their first World Series Cup match.

## Efforts

That proved far beyond their capabilities and they could manage only 208 for eight, despite the determined efforts of batsmen Roshan Mahanama, Asaoga Gurusinghe and Aravinda de Silva.

Boon won the Man of the Match award for his second international one-day century, beating his 111 against India in 1986.

With the hot conditions with the temperature near the century mark took their toll and Boon



Boon: played a pivotal role

was physically ill after running four soon after making his 100, which took 2 1/2 hours.

He belted 15 fours from 131 deliveries before holing out to Sri Lankan captain Ranjan

utes before Marsh was run out for 37 in the 24th over.

Dean Jones joined Boon and they added a quickfire 84 runs in 49 minutes from 82 deliveries before Boon made his exit.

Boon said he was becoming dehydrated from the heat when he vomited, but he did not feel dizzy or too sick.

He said the Sri Lankans bowled a steady line and length, but lacked a little pace.

Mahanama top-scored for Sri Lanka with a stubborn 50, while both Gurusinghe and De Silva carved out 43.

The defeat left Sri Lanka needing to win all its four remaining matches to have a chance of playing in the World Series Cup finals later this month.

The win allowed Australia to remain at the head of the WSC table with New Zealand, with each having six points from four matches.

Victorian Tony Dodemaide took the bowling honours, finishing with three for 27 from 10 overs.

Craig McDermott took two for 31.

## Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA  
G. Marsh run out ..... 37

SRI LANKA  
R. Mahanama c Vellela b Whitney 50  
E. Kuruppu b McDermott ..... 5  
A. Gurusinghe run out ..... 43  
A. de Silva run out ..... 43  
Ranasinghe c Vellela b Dodemaide 23  
R. Madugalle lbw b Dodemaide ..... 7  
R. Ratnayake b Dodemaide ..... 1  
G. Dyer not out ..... 11  
E. de Silva c Vellela b McDermott 3  
G. Labrooy not out ..... 3  
Sundries (lb 1lb 1lb 6w) ..... 19  
Eight wickets for ..... 208  
Fall of wickets: 9 (Kuruppu), 106 (Mahanama), 173 (de Silva), 187 (Madugalle), 189 (Ratnayake), 190 (Ranasinghe), 197 (de Silva).

Bowling: T. Dodemaide 10-1-27-3, C. McDermott 10-0-31-2 (1ab 5w), M. Whitney 10-0-53-1, S. Waugh 10-0-37-0 (1w), P. Taylor 10-1-48-0.

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**SPORTS****SPORTS BRIEFS****Tennis crown**

AUCKLAND, Jan 10. (Reuter): Amos Mansdorf unfathomed the mysteries of Indian magician Ramesh Krishnan and beat him 6-3 6-4 in just 77 minutes to win the Auckland Grand Prix men's singles title today.

**Iraqi fans**

BAGHDAD, Jan 10. (Reuter): Iraqi soccer fans will stay at home when the national team meets Kuwait in Oman for the second leg of their Olympic qualifying tie, an Iraqi sports official said on Sunday.

**West triumph**

YOKOHAMA, Japan, Jan 10. (AP): The East College football all-stars had most of the all-Americans, but the West had all the touchdowns today, harassing east's quarters into an afternoon of errant passes to win 17-3.

**World record**

SYDNEY, Australia, Jan 10. (AP): Australian Kerry Saxby broke the world record for the 5,000-metre walk today at the Sydney athletic field. Saxby, 26, from Ballina, on the north coast of New South Wales state, clocked 20 minutes, 55.76 seconds, almost 41 seconds less than the world mark of 21:36.2 set by Oleg Krishnot of the Soviet Union in 1984.

**Cup races**

DAVOS, Switzerland, Jan 10. (AP): East German speedskating ace Karin Kania won World Cup races over 500 and 1,500 metres in the fifth event of the season yesterday.

**E. German defects**

SAARBRUECKEN, West Germany, Jan 10. (AP): Former East German soccer star Juergen Sparwasser defected during an indoor tournament for veterans in West Germany, police and East German officials said today.

**Schwarz leads**

ST MORITZ, Switzerland, Jan 10. (AP): Hubert Schwarz of West Germany took the lead at a Nordic Combined individual competition in the men's World Cup after the ski jump part of the event yesterday.

**STAGE SET FOR AUSTRALIAN OPEN**

## Surface favours Lendl, says Edberg

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 10. (AP): Defending champion Stefan Edberg believes the new synthetic rebound ace surface for the \$1.9 million Australian Open, starting tomorrow, will aid the world's top-ranked player, Ivan Lendl.

Lendl, a Czech living in the United States, is the biggest threat to the Swede becoming the first player since Australian Roy Emerson in 1965 to capture three successive Australian crowns. He is also the man standing between Edberg and his major goal — seizing the No. 1 spot.

**Provided**

Although Lendl is favoured to take his first Australian title, Edberg said today the new surface at the National Tennis Centre provided for a much more open tournament than the grass of Kooyong, the previous open venue.

"The surface is an advantage to Lendl, but it is not a disadvantage to me because I can play well on this stuff too," Edberg said.

"Lendl is the one to heat because he is No. 1, but there are a lot of others who can play good tennis and have a good day," the world's second-ranked player said.

"He's playing at home in Melbourne and he seems to be fit and hitting the ball well, so you can count on him," Edberg said.

The Adelaide tournament also was played on a rebound ace surface.

**Edberg is recovering from an ankle injury which forced him to take time off after the Davis Cup final last year but said it was improving steadily.**

"I haven't felt it too much. I've been able to practice hard and play my matches in Adelaide. It's getting better every day," he said.

"Last night (in Adelaide) was far away from the best I can play, but I thought I played ok under the circumstances. I didn't expect too much of myself. I just did what I wanted to do to prepare for this week."

Edberg and fellow Swede Mats Wilander have been drawn to meet in the semifinals, while Lendl and Cash are on course to meet in the other half of the draw.

**Lendl makes his first appearance tomorrow night against unknown Australian qualifier Bryan Roe, who has the daunting task of facing the world's best player on centre court.**

**Losing**

Navratilova was in every Grand Slam final last year, beating Graf at Wimbledon and the US Open, losing the French Open to the young West German, and falling to Hana Mandlikova in the Australian.

Navratilova meets Liz Minter of Australia in the first round, while longtime American star Chris Evert faces little-known American Gretchen Magers.

Graf will play Norway's Amy Jonsson.

preventing a repeat of their Wimbledon final.

Cash is seeded fourth and has a tricky opening-round match against young Austrian left-hander Thomas Muster, ranked 57th in the world.

**Lendl** makes his first appearance tomorrow night against unknown Australian qualifier Bryan Roe, who has the daunting task of facing the world's best player on centre court.

The women's final shapes up to be a show-down between world No. 1 Steffi Graf and American Martina Navratilova, who is aiming for her fourth Australian title.

**Losing**

Navratilova was in every Grand Slam final last year, beating Graf at Wimbledon and the US Open, losing the French Open to the young West German, and falling to Hana Mandlikova in the Australian.

Navratilova meets Liz Minter of Australia in the first round, while longtime American star Chris Evert faces little-known American Gretchen Magers.

Graf will play Norway's Amy Jonsson.



Navratilova throws a football in the style of a quarterback prior to practicing on the centre court. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Hussein and Mota head Boston field

BOSTON, Jan 10. (AP): Kenya's Ibrahim Hussein, winner of the New York City and Honolulu marathons in 1987, and Portugal's Rosa Mota, the defending women's champion, will head a powerful foreign field for the April 18 Boston marathon, a race that will be devoid of top-flight US marathons.

Race officials said yesterday that the 26-mile, 385-yard event, beginning in the little town of Hopkinton, will be the Olympic qualifier for three countries — Kenya, Tanzania and Finland.

**Top**

In addition, Britain, Italy, Ethiopia and Mexico are expected to send their top marathoners, with Japan also entering a strong contingent, possibly including defending champion

Toshihiko Seko, said Dave D'Alessandro, senior vice president of John Hancock Financial Services.

Hussein, the only runner to win the Honolulu marathon three consecutive years, will lead a 15-man Kenyan delegation, which also may include Douglas Wakiihuru, winner of the marathon gold medal in last year's World Track and Field Championships at Rome.

Wakiihuru, who trains in Japan, is undecided whether to run at Boston or in the Feb 7 Tokyo marathon, D'Alessandro said.

"He feels an allegiance to the Japanese federation, but he doesn't know whether his country will give him an Olympic berth if he doesn't run here."

D'Alessandro said.

Tanzanian is planning to enter 10 men, D'Alessandro said, including Juma Ikaanga, the world's top-ranked marathoner in 1986; Gidamis Shashanga, the 1978 Commonwealth Games champion and the runner-up in last month's Honolulu marathon; Suleiman Nyambu, winner of 15 National Collegiate Athletic Association distance titles indoors and outdoors, and John Burra.

**Injured**

Among the other definite men's entries, D'Alessandro said, are Briton Steve Jones, the second-fastest marathoner in history, and Geoff Smith, the 1984 and 1985 Boston winner; two-time New York City winner Orlando Pizzolato of Italy, and

Ethiopians Abebe Mekonnen and Belayneh Densimo.

The possibilities include Seko and Italy's Gianni Poli, the 1986 New York City winner, both of whom are injured, and Australian Rob de Castella, the 1986 Boston and Commonwealth Games champion and 1983 world champion.

Seko, who also won Boston in 1981, missed last month's Fukuoka marathon, an important qualifier for the Japanese team, and depending on how well he recuperates, will run either the Tokyo marathon or Boston, D'Alessandro said.

Mota, the 1987 women's world champion, will be joined in the women's division by 1986 Commonwealth Games champion Lisa Martin of Australia.

## Fitzgerald and Shriner win titles

SYDNEY, Australia, Jan 10. (Reuter): Australian John Fitzgerald and American Pam Shriner won the singles titles at the New South Wales Open tennis tournament in the last grass court championships to be played at White City.

Fifth-seeded Fitzgerald, who also won here in 1984, beat third seed Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union 6-3 6-4.

For Shriner it was a case of third time lucky. The top-seeded American, who had twice before lost in the final here, defeated Czechoslovak Helena Sukova 6-2 6-3.

It was Shriner's second tournament triumph in two weeks, having won an international event in Brisbane last Sunday.

White City will be converting their courts to rubberised concrete surfaces, following the lead of the National Tennis Centre in Melton.

Sukova also came up short in the doubles, when she and partner Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany were beaten by American Ann Henricksson and Christiane Joissaint of Switzerland 7-6 4-6 6-3.

## Napoli sweep aside Fiorentina

ROME, Jan 10. (Reuter): Diego Maradona's Napoli shrugged off a disastrous start to 1988 with a stylish 4-0 win over Fiorentina today that took them a step closer to their second successive Italian Soccer League title.

Maradona and Brazilian Careca scored one each for the defending champions and leaders, with striker Bruno Gioraldo opening the goal feast after three minutes and closing it in the 75th.

**Record**

Napoli had desperately needed a win after losing their unbeaten League record this season in a 4-1 thrashing at AC Milan a week ago and then crashing 3-2 to Fiorentina in midweek during their defence of the Italian Cup.

Milan's Dutch striker Ruud Gullit, who did much of the damage to Napoli, was again in sparkling form and scored with a 65th minute header that took his team to a 1-0 win against Juventus in a classic northern derby.

Welsh international Ian Rush missed at least two chances for hosts Juventus, failing again to lift the doubts about his form since his move from England's Liverpool.

Milan stay three points adrift of Napoli on 20 points, equal

with Sampdoria of Genoa, who kept their title hopes alive with a 1-0 win at Pisa. Libero Luca Pellegrini, playing his 150th First Division game, scored in the 34th minute.

West German international striker Rudi Voeller marked his return to League soccer with Roma by firing a 54th minute goal against Torino and almost scored again two minutes later before Tullio Grittini equalised to secure a 1-1 draw.

Internazionale, Milan's other club, had no trouble in their 2-0 win over Cesena, with goals from Argentine Daniel Passarella and Italian captain Alessandro Altobelli — both headers and both into the same bottom corner of the net.

**Results**

Ascoli	2	Pescara	1
Como	1	Virtus	0
Empoli	0	Avellino	1
Inter	1	Cremonese	0
Fiorentina	0	A.C. Milan	1
Napoli	4	Fiorentina	0
Pisa	0	Sampdoria	1
Roma	1	Torino	1

**Standings**

	Leading	standing	(tabulation under games played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points)
Napoli	14	10	3 1 20 11 23
AC Milan	14	8	4 2 18 7 20
Cesena	14	7	6 1 20 17 18
Roma	14	7	4 3 23 13 18
Inter	14	5	5 4 19 17 15
Juventus	14	6	2 6 17 15 14
Verona	14	4	6 4 15 15 14

## United outlast Ipswich

LONDON, Jan 10. (Reuter): Manchester United's England full-back Viv Anderson, who has a habit of popping up to score vital goals, snatched the winner in their Football Association (FA) Cup match at Ipswich today.

Ipswich goalkeeper Jon Hallworth was slow to react to Colin Gibson's inswinging corner in the 65th minute and Anderson glanced home to give United a 2-1 third round victory.

Young Second Division Ipswich side submitted their First Division opponents to a searching examination, but suffered a setback after 29 minutes when they fell behind to an own goal.

England captain Bryan Robson

**Bridge**

RESULTS of the Messilah Ladies Bridge Club game held on Saturday:

1. Nabil Akel & Lollo Morthwaite
2. Jamila Akel & Margaret Rob-Whitaker
3. Fatima Abojebain & Diana Mattem

The Hilton Bridge Club game held on Saturday:

RESULTS of the Hubra Bridge Club game held on Saturday:

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